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POLL RESULTS

Do you support a PSS plan to bring drug-sniffing dogs to junior high and high school campuses to do drug sweeps?

Yes	171
No	24
No opinion	5

Sunday, December 04, 2011



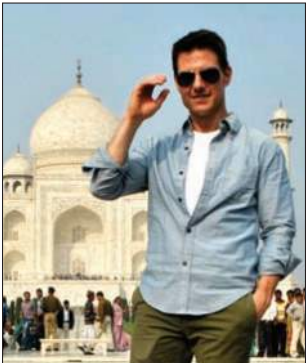
INSIDE



Tree Lighting

Hyatt Regency Saipan marks the beginning of its holiday festivities with a lighting ceremony of its Christmas tree.

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India Visit

Hollywood star Tom Cruise tours the iconic, white-marble Taj Mahal mausoleum in Agra.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 21

AMID WEAK ECONOMY

FICA taxes draw opposing views

» **No assurance foreign workers will benefit from payroll deductions**

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Payroll deduction for U.S. Social Security and Medicare taxes among most Filipino and Korean workers as a result of federalization of CNMI immigration is drawing opposing views from affected employees, employers, and government officials amid a weak economy, work hour cuts, and joblessness.

Many raised concern about insufficient information from the U.S. Internal Revenue Service, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, or other federal agencies whether, among other things,

affected foreign workers could benefit from paying these taxes, especially if they are forced to leave the CNMI after

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Some SIS students downed by stomach cramps, diarrhea

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

About 30 students of Saipan International School experienced stomach cramps and diarrhea Thursday morning last week, prompting the school officials to contact its food vendor and the Public School System to check the lunch that was served the day before the incident.

SIS Headmaster Dr. Dale Jenkins said Saturday that their food vendor, Herman's Modern Bakery, dished out

pork, vegetable, fruits, and rice for the Wednesday lunch of all their students.

Jenkins said it was the first time for a large number of their students to complain of the same symptoms and that reports of "discomfort" were noted since midnight of Wednesday.

On Thursday the school got calls from some parents, informing them about their children's absence due to stomach cramps and diarrhea. That same morning, several students complained of the same symptoms.

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COURTESY CALL

Saipan Mayor Donald G. Flores, center, is flanked by Brig. Gen. Daniel D. Yoo, fourth left, and other visiting Marine officials from San Diego, California, who paid a courtesy visit to the mayor on Friday afternoon. Yoo, commanding general for the Marine Corps Recruit Depot/Western Recruiting Region, led the seven-member delegation from San Diego, California in a brief first visit to Saipan. The group, which had just come from Guam, went back to the U.S. mainland on Saturday.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

COE allegedly cashes out annual leave

» **Five other PSS execs follow suit**
» **Education board's investigation sought**

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Education Commissioner Rita A. Sablan, along with some members of her

leadership team, have reportedly cashed out their annual leaves—a move that has dismayed many Public School System employees and teachers who believe that this is against the system's policy, which



Sablan

only allows the cashing out of unused annual leaves if they are separated from the system.

Saipan Tribune learned from sources that Sablan and some members of her leadership team cashed out their annual leaves

a few months ago. The same sources disclosed that the five employees who were allowed to cash out their leave benefits all work at the PSS central office.

It was reported that majority of the six PSS officials received the full hours of their unused annual leave, which translates to thousands of dollars.

Saipan Tribune tried to contact Sablan but was told that she was in a meeting

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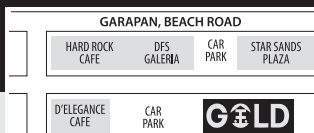
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Inos signs \$10 million CUC loan bill into law. PAGE 5

Local

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CLARISSA V. DAVID

From left, Saipan Chamber of Commerce executive director Richard Pierce, USS Columbia commanding officer Dennis Klein, Chamber president Douglas Brennan, and USS Columbia executive officer Mel Naidas.

Chamber reception welcomes *Columbia* officials and crew

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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 REPORTER

Officials and crew members of USS *Columbia*, a Los Angeles-class submarine, were officially welcomed to the Commonwealth by the Saipan Chamber of Commerce Saturday night at the 360 Revolving Restaurant in Susupe.

Chamber officials led by president Douglas Brennan and executive director Richard Pierce presented plaques of appreciation to commanding officer Dennis Klein and executive officer Mel Naidas.

Klein said the schedule of USS *Columbia*, which arrived on island Thursday morning, allowed them to visit Saipan—a destination that was “absolutely” recommended by other naval ships.

“It’s been predetermined that we’re going to come in based on the availability of all the other ships so we’re fortunate enough to come here and we’re very happy about being here,” Klein said.

According to Klein, the island has “a great reputation” of supporting the U.S. Navy and the rest of its armed forces.

“It’s that kind of support that goes a long way for both our crew and for the United States forces in general,” he added.

Klein said most of the 150 crew members of USS *Columbia* are first timers, including himself, and are “all having a good time.”

“It’s excellent. It is my first time here and we have had a great time. The hospitality and the warmth of the people [are] clearly evident and I greatly ap-

preciate that,” he said. “I look forward to my next visit. I think it’s a great place for the crew and a great place to relax and enjoy themselves.”

Some of the officials and crew members of USS *Columbia* spent some time at the Coral Ocean Point golf range where they were able to avail of the \$30 local rate, said Chamber executive director Pierce.

According to Pierce, it was COP’s Lucio Aldan who gave them the local rate. Other golf courses on island offer \$60 rates for visiting military personnel upon presenting their military ID.

“But the Chamber thinks that it should be a local rate for the military...I don’t think they should be treated any differently from me or you or somebody else that lives here,” he said.

Pierce said the Chamber has hosted about six military ships, including USS *Columbia*, this year, adding that they encourage businesses on island to accommodate these visitors in their establishments.

“This is the first time for USS *Columbia* and hopefully they’ll repeat,” he added.

Pierce urged the community to “welcome” visiting military personnel and “make them feel at home” during their stay on Saipan through small acts such as helping them get to their destination when they see them walking in the streets.

“We usher them around, we try to take care of them, and make them feel welcome and make them come back...We want to make Saipan their best destination for morale, welfare, and recreation,” he added.

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SHEFA enforces regulations on grievances, appeals

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

The days of only one or two persons acting on grievances and appeals of scholarship applicants are gone, with the decision of the Saipan Higher Educational Financial Assistance to enforce regulations during a special meeting Thursday at the Saipan Mayor's Office.

In the past, grievances and student appeals were taken care of by agency's consultants, who received, reviewed, and decided all cases, according to SHEFA administrator Henry Hofschneider.



Hofschneider

This practice, he said, existed for many years despite the clear mandate in the agency's regulation that a committee on appeals should be established to take care of students' complaints, grievances, and appeals to the board.

Under the current setup, the SHEFA administrator initially reviews and decides on stu-

dent applications. In case of denials, the aggrieved party can file an appeal with the SHEFA board within 10 days. Hofschneider said that denied students are usually provided the reason why their applications are rejected.

SHEFA board chair Jose Mafnas said Thursday that he has received numerous calls and emails, all appealing the denial of student applications. This practice, he said, is an indication that there was no clear mechanism on how students could appeal their case.

"My concern is, there are many appeals that are coming directly to me as chairman of the board. We need to revisit our policy because there is confusion on how an appeal is being addressed. We need to look at what is mandated in our regulation—if they can directly go to the chairman of the board or to the standing committee," said Mafnas.

To provide due process to all

Federal court delays trial of immigration doc fraud case

The federal court has postponed the Dec. 12 jury trial of a man in an immigration document fraud case, as requested by both prosecution and defense counsel.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona ruled that going ahead with the Dec. 12 jury trial without giving Steven Romie Aguon more time to prepare would likely result in a miscarriage of justice.

"Failure to grant this continuance and find excludable delay would unreasonably deny counsel for defendant the reasonable time necessary for effective preparation," said Manglona in the order.

Attorney Michael Norita Evangelista, counsel for Aguon, and assistant U.S. attorney Beverly R. McCallum both asked for the postponement of the trial to January 2012.

Hotel settles sex harassment suit

The owner of Hyatt Regency Saipan has settled the sexual harassment lawsuit filed by a masseuse who alleged that the hotel's assistant manager subjected her to sexual advances.

Attorneys Colin M. Thompson and Marcia K. Schultz, counsels for the masseuse and Saipan Portopia Hotel Corp. respectively, have notified the U.S. District Court for the NMI about their settlement.

Thompson and Schultz said the parties have reached a full and final settlement on the plaintiff's claims and that the court should dismiss the lawsuit.

Pursuant to the settlement, the lawyers said, they have agreed that the matter be dismissed with

The prosecution had turned over about 450 pages of documents to Evangelista, who said he needs more time to review them.

The review process is complicated by the fact that Aguon is currently incarcerated in the Department of Corrections on a previous criminal case.

Aguon has been indicted on one count of immigration document fraud. He allegedly made a false statement to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services when he applied for a petition for a relative.

Aguon allegedly stated that he was married to Linlin Song when he in fact divorced her on Feb. 23, 2009.

Aguon has a prior conviction for sexual abuse of a minor in the second degree. He was sentenced to two years in prison in October 2010. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

prejudice in its entirety, meaning it cannot be re-opened.

The parties, however, agreed that the federal court will retain jurisdiction over this case in order to enforce the settlement agreement.

Each party will bear their own attorney's fees and costs.

According to Thompson in the complaint, the sexual harassment included sexual advances and sexually charged and unwelcome physical contact by the hotel's assistant manager.

The lawyer said the plaintiff was terminated soon after she complained of the sexual harassment to the hotel's human resources department. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

denied applicants, Mafnas delegated the task of hearing all these appeals to the standing committee on appeal, which is tasked to recommend actions to the full board.

Mafnas appointed three members to the panel: John Tenorio as chairman and Vina Saures and Ursula Aldan as committee members.

After the committee's review, they may recommend either to affirm or reverse the administrator's decision.

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Paramedics treat Edwin Sta. Theresa of his injuries when a van he was driving slammed into a pine tree and fell sideways along Beach Road, Chalan Laulau Saturday morning.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Van driver falls asleep, slams into tree

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

A man who had just checked out of the hospital was injured when he fell asleep and a van he was driving slammed into a tree along the side of Beach Road in Chalan Laulau Saturday morning.

Edwin Sta. Theresa, production manager of Digital Motion, sustained bruises and lacerations on his left arm. Paramedics treated him at the scene.

Sta. Theresa was driving south aboard a Toyota Previa van along Beach Road when the accident happened around 8:10am near Triple J Motors.

The van swerved to the right,

slammed into a big pine tree, then fell on its left side on the shoulder of the road.

Sta. Theresa managed to get down from the van and sat on the pathway. Passersby immediately called 911.

After a few minutes, paramedics and police officers arrived.

Sta. Theresa told paramedics and police officers that he had just come out from the Commonwealth Health Cen-

ter where he was treated for stomach cramps.

He said he fell asleep while driving the van, causing the mishap.

After being treated at the scene, *Saipan Tribune* saw Sta. Theresa holding his bloodied left arm while watching a truck tow away the van.

It was not clear whether Sta. Theresa went back to CHC for further treatment.

The van had extensive damage on the front.

COE

From Page 1

Friday. The commissioner did not return this reporter's call.

PSS finance director Richard Waldo refused to comment on the issue but expressed belief that the "cashing out of unused annual leave or a portion of it is not against PSS policy." He did not elaborate.

Employees and teachers interviewed in different schools told *Saipan Tribune* that they knew about the matter and were disappointed. However, they all refused to be named in this story, saying they don't want to "get in trouble."

Fear of retaliation

Last Nov. 30, former Marianas High School principal Craig Garrison wrote members of the Education Board, raising the same issue and seeking the board's investigation on the matter.

Garrison, who has been a vocal critic of Sablan, told the board that he was asked by many school personnel to air this concern to the board because they are afraid of retaliation.

"I am writing at this time as a former principal, as these concerns are fueled by the many comments I have received from PSS staff that they feel cheated

as the information was leaked. They share with me as they believe I can be the voice to the board and in that way they don't lose their jobs in retaliation, as was stated to me," Garrison's letter to the board said.

Of particular concern to Garrison was the lack of transparency: "Why it is that it was kept quiet that the COE was able to cash out her 400 hours of annual leave along with five others in her central office leadership, all within the same period of time? This is something that usually can only occur at the time of separation from PSS."

Garrison alleged that those who cashed out simply submitted a letter indicating they needed money for "medical reasons."

"If this is true, there seems to be cause for alarm as having six people all cash out in the same period because they are sick would send up a flag at Public Health. Although I can understand that some of these people may be genuinely ill, there is already a process of advanced payroll that can help," said Garrison.

For Garrison, having the commissioner cash out her annual leave and the appearance of "playing favorites and hiding it sets a very bad precedent" during these difficult times.

Garrison asked the board not only to

look at the proper documentations on the matter but to curtail what he labeled as "poor decision making" and ensure that PSS money is better spent on the children of the CNMI.

No comments

Of the five voting members of the Education Board, only Galvin Deleon Guerrero admitted that he received Garrison's letter. He declined to comment but assured that the matter will be discussed in the board's next meeting this month.

Rota board member Tanya King told *Saipan Tribune* Friday that she has yet to receive or see Garrison's letter. However, she said the board will look into the matter and see if there is evidence that will substantiate the allegations and check the validity of the concerns.

Board chair Marylou S. Ada also refused to comment, saying she has yet to receive the letter but will issue a response once she gets it.

Board member Herman T. Guerrero, who is off-island, said he has not received Garrison's letter and referred this reporter to Ada as the board's spokesperson.

Tinian member Lucy Blanco-Maratita, in the absence of any document relating to the allegations, also declined to comment on Friday.



BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday greetings go out to Patricia "Pat" A. Reyes! Hope you have an amazing and awesome day! Loving you always, your husband, kids, and grandkids.

SIS

From Page 1

Jenkins said no one was seriously ill or taken to the hospital for treatment. Many of the affected students on campus, he said, opted to go home and rest. Letters to all parents were sent out to inform them about the incident.

All 30 students reported to their classes Friday morning.

Saipan Tribune learned that the same lunch menu was served to all 235 SIS students on Wednesday. Only the upper graders from 6th to 12th graders were affected by the symptoms.

Jenkins said they don't know exactly what happened, but the school does not want to speculate for now on what caused the incident.

"We have full confidence in our food vendor because they've been doing a great job in the past two years," he said.

Jenkins said that Herman's Modern

Bakery has been their food vendor for two years now and has been excellent in its performance.

He said the school was more concerned than alarmed. "When you're taking care of children, if there is injury in the playground for example, it's always a serious issue for us. I want to point out that everything we've done is simply to ensure the safety of students and I think Herman's Bakery and PSS share the same feeling," said Jenkins, adding that if there's one positive thing the incident will bring is making sure that all procedures and guidelines in preparing food will be followed.

He said SIS is very grateful for the quick response of both the food vendor and PSS.

Saipan Tribune learned that PSS went down to Herman's Modern Bakery and checked its records and procedures to determine if food is being prepared in accordance with proper temperatures. A final report is expected this week.

FICA

From Page 1

the end of the transition period in 2014 or earlier.

IRS said that Filipino workers in the CNMI are no longer exempt from the Federal Income Tax Act, even as the U.S. Government Accountability Office had been unsure in July about the FICA tax coverage of Filipino and Korean workers.

FICA covers U.S. Social Security and Medicare taxes.

Some employees and employers are unsure whether the payment of FICA taxes should have covered the date after Nov. 27, 2011, the expiration of CNMI-issued umbrella permits for foreign workers.

Former agreements between the Philippine government and the United States government exempted Filipino guest workers under the FICA Act but this exemption apparently no longer stand since the implementation of federalization.

For a Filipino worker earning a minimum wage of \$5.05 an hour, the monthly FICA tax deduction will be over \$45 a month. Employee's FICA contribution is 5.65 percent of their salary.

This deduction consists of 4.20 percent for Social Security, and 1.45 percent for Medicare. This is also on top of the

CNMI taxes that foreign workers pay.

For employers, this means an additional expense of almost \$62 a month in employer's share for every employee required to pay FICA taxes. Employer's share is 7.65 of the employee's salary—6.20 percent for Social Security, and 1.45 percent for Medicare.

The FICA tax payments mean that a business with 15 Filipino workers earning minimum wage, for example, will incur an additional expense of over \$24,000.

Florante Dipus, 51, said a \$45 payroll deduction is a big amount for him, money that could go to buying food and paying for utilities.

Dipus, a Filipino electrician on Saipan since 1990, said he's worried that his FICA contribution will only go to waste and that he will not benefit from it if he loses his job a year or two after he starts paying for the FICA taxes.

"That is not clear to us. We are not earning a lot, and to pay for something that we're not sure we could benefit from is a big concern for me," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Lee King Ho, president of the Korean Association in the CNMI, said yesterday that they have yet to gather information about the FICA taxes.

But there are also different views whether Korean workers in the CNMI were supposed to be exempted from the

FICA taxes to begin with, even before the implementation of federalization. Different IRS documents and statements throughout the past years also contained different information.

In general, employees in the U.S. are required to pay Social Security and Medicare taxes.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan (Ind-MP) said yesterday "nobody wants to pay more taxes, especially when the economy is hurting and people are already struggling to keep their businesses open and their families fed."

But Sablan said there is one positive aspect of this IRS ruling: "It levels the playing field for our local U.S. workers who need jobs."

"Up to now, it costs more to hire local U.S. workers than to hire Filipino workers, because employers did not have to pay the FICA tax for Filipinos. Employers who hired a local U.S. worker had to pay 7.65 percent more than if they hired someone from the Philippines. That's a substantial disincentive to hire locals. So, the IRS ruling should really help our local people who are looking for work," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

The delegate said he really can't speculate on whether workers will benefit from paying FICA taxes.

"It depends on the specific circumstances of any individual worker. I can say that most foreign workers in the United

States are not exempted," he added.

Juan I. Tenorio, personnel manager at Hafa Adai Hotel, said he was taken by surprise by this additional expense for the hotel, which has many Filipino workers

"Most definitely it's an added expense to employers. We need to factor this in our projections. I wish there's information about this way ahead of time, and not like this when it's last-minute. I will have to get more information before I comment further," he said.

Bonifacio Sagana, president of De-kaa Movement who has mostly Filipino workers as members, said that back in the late '80s when he arrived on Saipan as a foreign worker, they used to pay FICA taxes that were automatically deducted from their paychecks.

But he said in the early '90s, the FICA tax deductions stopped but they didn't reap any benefit from the tax payments.

"Now, Filipino workers are supposed to be paying the FICA taxes again. Maybe for those covered by HR 1466, those who are immediate relatives of U.S. citizens, they could benefit from this upon their retirement. But those who are not covered by HR 1466 or those who will be sent home if they lose their status, they may not really benefit from it," he said.

Florida-based human rights advocate and former Rota teacher Wendy Dor-

omal, in her blog Unheard No More, said the majority of the CNMI's foreign workers will pay these FICA taxes and "will never reap the benefits because they are 'temporary' workers."

IRS said only H-2 visa holders will be exempt from the FICA taxes.

"Why should the U.S. government tax foreign workers for benefits that they will never receive? In the CNMI, there is presently no way for the typical temporary foreign worker with a CW visa to obtain status, and no track to U.S. citizenship," Doromal said.

She said unless the U.S. government creates a guest worker program that stops the revolving door and establishes a program where workers are considered future citizen rather than as replaceable foreign products, then the government should not be taxing foreign workers who will most likely never receive any Social Security or Medicare benefits.

Doromal also cited a lawsuit filed in federal court seeking reimbursement of employers' share of Social Security and Medicare taxes paid to the U.S. government between the tax years 2003 and 2007, as well as another similar lawsuit.

Some accountants on island are saying that, as far as they know, workers may only benefit from their FICA tax deductions if they contribute to the system for 40 quarters or for 10 years.

Inos signs \$10 million CUC loan bill into law

» Foreign corporation tax measure vetoed, \$35,000 Tinian developer tax bill OK'd

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Acting governor Eloy S. Inos signed into law on Saturday a bill authorizing a \$10 million loan by the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. to improve its utility services such as those related to power generation, two days after vetoing a foreign corporation tax bill and approving the local appropriation of \$35,000 from Tinian developer tax payments.

The CUC loan bill, which almost did not pass the House if not for a one-vote change on Thursday, authorizes CUC to borrow \$10 million from the Rhode Island-based Independence Bank so that the utilities agency could improve its equipment and facilities to meet the requirements of stipulated orders.

Money from the loan would also be used for CUC projects on Rota and Tinian, a provision that the Senate inserted into the final version of the bill.

Inos signed House Bill 17-205, House Substitute 1, House Draft 1, Senate Substitute 1 into Public Law 17-62.

The bill was authored by Rep. Stanley Torres (Ind-Saipan), who eventually voted against the final version because of changes he did not agree to.

Under the new law, the CUC executive director is authorized to execute the \$10 million loan in the absence of an organized board of directors.

House members debated whether it was public indebtedness, whether CUC would pass on additional expenses to its customers if and when it defaults on its loans, and

2 Saipan beaches red-flagged

The Division of Environment Quality has red-flagged DPW Channel Bridge and Garapan Fishing Dock and is advising the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of these locations for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified.

DEQ said that samples collected from these locations had excessive concentrations

whether the U.S. Department of Agriculture is really going to guarantee the loan.

The deadline to complete the loan was Nov. 30 or Dec. 1 Saipan time, the day the House narrowly passed the bill. But at the time, CUC was communicating with the bank about the latest development on the bill so that it could be given extra time to complete the submission of the loan, which also needed further review by the Public Utilities Commission.

Vetoed bill

The acting governor vetoed on Thursday a conference committee bill that seeks to provide for a tax rate for foreign corporations earning income from outside of the CNMI, saying that such changes to the tax structure violate the terms of the Covenant to establish a CNMI in political union with the United States.

Inos, in vetoing House Bill 17-163, Senate Draft 2, Conference Committee Substitute 1, said this bill is structured to provide tax incentives for companies to establish CNMI corporations and then use these corporations to obtain favorable tax treatment on foreign-sourced income.

Under the bill, originally introduced by Rep. Ray Basa (Cov-Saipan), a special tax rate of 10 percent would be established in the Northern Marianas territorial income tax (NMTIT) for "net foreign income."

Additionally, a NMTIT income rate of 0.5 percent would be imposed on capital gains, interest, royalties, copyrights, patents and other intangibles.

Finally, the bill provides that to the extent any foreign income

of fecal indicator bacteria (enterococci) that exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards. These bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water. Water samples were taken from 12 locations on Saipan this week. For more information, contact DEQ at 664-8500. (DEQ)

is subject to NMTIT a rebate of 100 percent shall be provided.

"These proposed changes to the NMTIT tax structure are in violation of Covenant restrictions to limit rebates to Commonwealth sources income and case law which prohibits changes by insular areas that have adopted the United States tax code," Inos said in his message to House Speaker Eli Cabrera

(R-Saipan) and Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota).

Article VI of the Covenant establishes the interrelationship between the U.S. and the CNMI in regards to tax authority.

This section states that U.S. income tax laws will come into force in the Northern Marianas as a local territorial income tax.

Sourcing of income is an important element of imposing

income tax liability and is generally addressed in Subchapter N of the U.S. Tax Code and associated federal regulations.

Section 601 of the Covenant specifically limits the authority of the CNMI to rebate to taxes on income derived from sources within the CNMI, Inos said.

New Tinian law

The acting governor also approved on Thursday a local measure appropriating \$35,000 from the developer infrastructure tax collected on Tinian to go towards road paving on Tinian.

House Local Bill 17-46, Draft 1, introduced by Rep. Trenton Conner (R-Tinian), is now Tinian Local Law 17-9.

"I appreciate the signing of the bill and thank the governor for his understanding on the needs of the municipality," Conner told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

The new local law appropriates the amount to the Office of the Mayor of Tinian for use by the Department of Public Works-Tinian for unpaved roads at Marpo, Marpo Heights II, and Carolinas.

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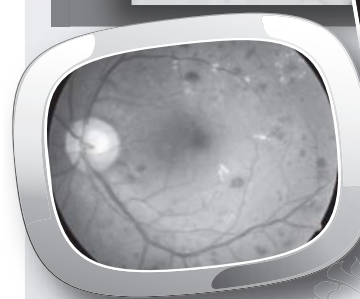
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TTY: (670) 322-6449; E-MAIL: nmidir@ovrgov.net

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC §9910, the public is advised that the Statewide Independent Living Council will hold its FY 2012 First General Membership Meeting on Tuesday, December 06, 2011 at the Caladium Hall, LaoLao Bay & Golf Resort at 9:00am-2:00pm. Interested individuals are welcome to attend.

AGENDA

- I. Roll Call**
- II. Adoption of Agenda**
- III. Review and adoption of September 09, 2011 Minutes**
- IV. Reports**
 - CLI Director
 - OVR Director
 - Chairman
- V. Old Business**
 - Pending Training on Four Core Services
 - SILC By-Laws/Membership Composition
 - Accessible Transportation Issues
- VI. New Business**
 - Joint Public Forum with partner agencies
 - Recommendation for CIL activities
 - SILC Congress Update Report
- VII. Consumer Forum**
 - TSA Airport Security Presentation
- VIII. Announcements/Miscellaneous**
- IX. Adjournment**

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend the meeting but require accommodations such as large print or sign language interpreters, are asked to call 322-6537(voice) or 322-6449(TTY). Please contact Elvira Seman (Council Liaison) two days in advance for necessary arrangements.

/s/ Stephen Dutro
SILC Chairperson

Publication of this notice is paid for by federal funds made possible by the United States Department of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS).

MLSC board meets on Saipan

The board of directors of Micronesia Legal Services Corp. recently concluded its biannual meeting on Saipan.

The board members include CNMI representative Lucia Blanco-Maratita, Kosrae Senator Chang William; Republic of the Marshall Islands Minister of Justice Branson Wase; Mayor of Kolonia Town, Pohnpei, Marcelo Peterson; Chuuk Senator Arno Kony; Yap representative Michael Ga'an; Palauan representative Danny Ongelungel;

and two at-large members, Alik Alik (RMI) and Robert Ruecho (Guam).

Former Associate Justice Jesus "Jesse" S. Borja gave the opening remarks. Borja worked for MLSC as an intern, as a lawyer, as deputy director, and then served on its board of directors. He is a former associate justice of the CNMI Supreme Court and former CNMI lieutenant governor. Now he acts as legal counsel to the Northern Marianas College.

At its luncheon on Wednesday, the MLSC board honored Saipan employee Maria Palacios Muña for her 40 years of dedicated service in the Marianas Office. Muña started work as a secretary on Dec. 6, 1971 and, after many years, became a paralegal. She handles a variety of tasks, with a heavy emphasis on domestic cases, and recently has helped with immigration matters. She will continue to be a valuable and valued employee of the Marianas Office. **(PR)**



From left, Chang William (Kosrae), Danny Ongelungel (Palau), Arno Kony (Chuuk), Branson Wase (Marshall Islands), Maria P. Muna (Marianas Office), Michael Ga'an (Yap), Lucia Blanco-Maratita (CNMI), Robert Ruecho (Guam).

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



**Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director**



CUC-RFEI-12-001

**Requests for Expressions of Interest
For the Purchase or Operation of Public Utilities
(A Non-Binding, Informal Market Survey)**

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), a public corporation, is interested in the potential for privatization of its services. Desired is for interested firms, individuals, or groups to present an "Expression of Interest" for the privatization and/or transfer of CUC Utility Services. Expressions of Interest may include in whole, in part, or in business sector: direct purchase, operating contract schemes, and/or utility agency or co-operative formation(s) for the Electrical Power Generation Systems, Electrical Transmission and Distribution Systems, and Water and Wastewater Utility Services.

The Request for Expressions of Interest is an exploratory project in order to survey market interest in owning and/or operating the utility. It is not intended to be a formal or informal procurement process and CUC does not express or imply that any future procurement and/or acquisition process will occur, or that any preference will be given to those replying.

The CUC invites suitably qualified utility owners and operators with proven records of accomplishment in power generation, transmission, distribution, and water and wastewater utility ownership and operations to submit an EOI to purchase and operate the referenced CUC operations and facilities. CUC will review all Expressions of Interests received, and based in part on these submittals, will decide on whether to pursue privatization further. This EOI is an exploratory survey of market interest only.

The CUC-RFEI-12-001 packet will be e-mailed, upon request, to all interested offeror, by the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, during working hours (7:30 AM to 4:30 PM), Monday thru Friday, except government observed holidays.

One (1) original and Seven (7) copies must be submitted by hand or courier in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-RFEI-12-001" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, Room No.4, 3rd Floor Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O.Box 501220, Saipan MP 96950, no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on December 16, 2011 (ChST). Late submission will not be considered.

All inquires must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) local time on December 12, 2011 to Alan Fletcher, Deputy Director for Water/Wastewater via email alan.fletcher@cucgov.org; Manuel B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Officer via email msablan@cucgov.net; and Ms. Janina Muna, CUC Procurement & Supply Administrative Assistant via email mika.muna@cucgov.org. CUC will respond to questions and clarifications, only to prospective respondents who have registered with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division for the solicitation.

ALAN W. FLETCHER
Acting Executive Director



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**Government Group Health Insurance
Open Season**

November 21 – December 30, 2011

Notice of Change in Premiums and New Plan Options

New plan options and premiums for health insurance members, effective January 01, 2012:

EMPLOYEES PREMIUM

<u>PLAN COVERAGE</u>	<u>HIGH Option</u>	<u>LOW Option</u>
Single	\$100.93	\$93.37
Couple	\$206.90	\$191.39
Couple including Domestic Partner	\$312.87	\$289.41
Family	\$322.96	\$298.78
Family including Domestic Partner	\$423.89	\$392.12

RETIREES PREMIUM

<u>PLAN COVERAGE</u>	<u>HIGH Option</u>	<u>LOW Option</u>
Single	\$109.34	\$101.14
Couple	\$224.14	\$207.34
Couple including Domestic Partner	\$338.94	\$313.54
Family	\$349.87	\$323.65
Family including Domestic Partner	\$459.21	\$427.79

During Open Season, active government employees and **retirees currently enrolled** in the Plan will have the opportunity to do the following:

- Government employees not currently covered by AGB may apply for coverage for yourself and dependents
- If you are currently covered but want to make changes, you may change Plan Coverage to add dependents, switch to LOW Option, or a combination
- **Retirees currently enrolled in the plan may make changes**

Enrollment forms are available at the NMI Retirement Fund offices, or online at www.nmiretirement.com. Approved enrollments and changes selected during Open Season shall take effect January 1, 2012. The new premiums should be reflected on employees' paychecks for the pay period beginning January 1, 2012 and for retirees' pension for the pay period beginning January 15, 2012.

Immigration detainee begs ICE to move him to hospital

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Elpidio A. Macaraeg, a 60-year-old Filipino maintenance worker who has been on Saipan for 26 years and has been in detention for two months while facing removal proceedings, is pleading with federal authorities to confine him instead at the hospital as his arthritis has worsened due to a very cold condition inside his detention cell.

SSHS' Guiao awarded a Quest Bridge scholarship

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A senior student of Saipan Southern High School was named Friday a Quest Bridge scholar for school year 2011-2012.

Lallane Guiao is the second Pacific Islander to accomplish such a feat, next to Darren Demapan who now attends Stanford University.

As a Quest Bridge scholar, Guiao's college expenses will all be paid for by the scholarship program. Her college scholarship grant amounts to \$58,671.

"I am truly honored to have been selected for this scholarship. It's like a dream come true. My family is extremely proud of me. I would not have been able to accomplish this if it weren't for their motivation," she told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.



Guiao

yesterday.

Guiao will enroll at Wesleyan University in Middletown, Connecticut.

She said she is thinking of majoring in political science in preparation for a degree in law. Guiao said she applied for the program and was extremely overwhelmed when she received the good news Friday.

She believes that she was selected because of her academics, extra-curricular involvements, and community service.

The Quest Bridge Scholarship is a four-year scholarship covering everything from tuition to board.

Guiao revealed that it was Demapan, also from the CNMI public high school, who encouraged her to apply for the Quest Bridge scholarship.

QuestBridge is a non-profit organization that has worked since 1994 to connect bright, motivated low-income students with educational and scholarship opportunities at some of the nation's best colleges and universities.

pine Consulate General stated that the Philippine government can only disburse funds from the Legal Assistance Fund for criminal and labor disputes and not for immigration cases such as Macaraeg's.

Rene Reyes, founding president of the Marianas Advocates for Humanitarian Affairs Ltd. or MAHAL, told *Saipan Tribune* that he visited Macaraeg yesterday and the man could hardly walk out of his detention cell at the Department of Corrections.

Reyes said that Macaraeg's arthritis has worsened because it is very cold inside his detention cell.

Reyes said that Macaraeg is begging for humanitarian con-

sideration from Immigration and Customs Enforcement to place him under "hospital arrest" due to his old age and health condition.

Macaraeg is a MAHAL member. He was in a wheelchair when Reyes visited him at DOC last month. His legs have become swollen due to arthritis.

Last Thursday, the Immigration Court set the hearing for Macaraeg's removal case for Dec. 9 at 1pm. Attorney Janet King substituted for Macaraeg's counsel, Mun Su Park, who was off-island at the time.

Reyes told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that he inquired with the Philippine Consulate General if the Philippine government

can provide funding for Macaraeg's legal defense.

Reyes said that Philippine Consul General Medardo G. Macaraig wrote him on Nov. 30, stating that funding can only be made available for criminal and labor cases. Macaraig said that Macaraeg's case is clearly an immigration issue, so it would be difficult to obtain funding from the Legal Assistance Fund.

Nevertheless, Macaraig said he still sent Reyes' request to the Philippine Department of Foreign Affairs for consideration.

"The DFA confirmed to the Philippine Consulate General

that disbursement of funds from the Legal Assistance Fund can only be made for criminal and labor disputes in accordance with Republic Act 10022 that amended Republic Act 8042, known as the "Migrant Workers and Overseas Filipinos Act of 1995" and other subsequent rules and regulations implementing this law," Macaraig said.

ICE agents arrested Macaraeg last October when he did not appear at his immigration hearing due to confusion about his hearing date as it was handwritten.

The Filipino worker was supposed to be deported on Nov. 7, but Park filed an emer-

gency motion to reopen proceedings and rescind the order of removal entered on Oct. 4, 2011.

"The court's written notice sets out a wrong date to the detriment of respondent, whose only fault is to rely and believe that the court's written notice is correct," Park said.

Among the grounds cited for removal was that Macaraeg is jobless and has no umbrella permit.

But Reyes said that Macaraeg, who has been involved in many projects on the island and has no criminal background, is among the 628 aliens who were granted conditional umbrella permits.

PUBLIC NOTICE

In accordance with the "Open Government Act", the Public School System State Board of Education, through their Special Education State Advisory Panel (SESAP), is hereby serving notice to the general public that it will hold a meeting on Wednesday, December 07, 2011, 5:00pm to 7:00pm at the Pacific Islands Club, Napu Room. This meeting is open to the public, interested individuals are welcome.

AGENDA

- I. Preliminary Matters**
 - ✓ Call to order
 - ✓ Roll Call
 - ✓ Quorum
 - ✓ Adoption of Agenda
- II. Annual Report**
- III. Bylaws Revision**
- IV. Election of Officers**
- V. Adjournment**

In compliance with the American Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend this meeting, but require accessibility such as large print or sign language interpreters must call 237-3029. Several days notice is necessary to allow organizers ample time to make necessary arrangements.

/s/ Frances Diaz
Chairwoman, SESAP

/s/Suzanne Lizama
Director, Special Education

MARIANAS PUBLIC LAND TRUST PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, The Open Government Act of 1992, the Marianas Public Land Trust has scheduled a MPLT Trustees Regular Meeting to be held on **Friday, December 9, 2011** beginning at 9:30am at MPLT Conference Room, 1313 Anatahan Drive, Capital Hill, Saipan, MP 96950

The following agenda is hereby established:

- I. PRELIMINARIES**
 - 1. Call to Order
 - 2. Roll Call
 - 3. Adoption of Agenda
 - 4. Adoption of Minutes November 18, 2011
- II. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT**
- III. CONSULTANT'S REPORTS**
 - 1. Investment Consultant Report
 - 2. Board Consultant Report
- IV. LEGAL COUNSEL**
- V. OLD BUSINESS**
 - 1. SSB/CDA - deferred
 - 2. Alternative Investment- draft MPLT 11-7
 - 3. CHC - Electronic Health Record (E.H.R) - deferred
 - 4. Gov't Bldg. 1222 - update
- VI. COMMUNICATIONS**
 - DPL
- VII. NEW BUSINESS**
 - ACA Proposal - 11/26/11
- VIII. MISCELLANEOUS**
- IX. ADJOURNMENT**

At anytime during this scheduled meeting, the Board of Trustees may be required to enter into Executive Session to discuss matters deemed privileged and confidential.

In accordance with Public Law 8-41, additional agenda items may be added to the above listing only by the recorded vote of the majority of the trustee governing body. All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written and oral testimony on the above agenda items.

/s/ Alvaro A. Santos
Chairman, MPLT Trustees

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In memory of John K. Lee, Jr., First Hawaiian Bank donated \$25,000 to the Guam Community College to establish the John K. Lee, Jr. Scholarship Fund. If you would like to contribute to the Scholarship Fund, donations will be accepted at any branch until December 31, 2011.

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Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Office of the Executive Director



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

CUC-RFP-12-003

Urgent Repair: Fuel Tank Nos. R1, R3, R4 & Piping, Rota Power Plant

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation, is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified contractors or firms for the Urgent Repair of Fuel Tanks Nos. R1, R3, R4 & Piping, Rota Power Plant, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The tanks have been cleaned and undergone API inspections and they are not currently in use. The piping or part of the piping may still be in use and they would be emptied by CUC and handed over for the necessary work through a mutually arranged schedule with the winning contractor. Contractors are advised that the work will be carried out as a part of CUC response actions under the consent decree noted as Stipulated Order No. 2 (SO 2).

The Scope-of-Work and Proposal package will be emailed, upon receipt of a non-refundable deposit from the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$ 100.00 for one set, upon request, to all interested Offerors, by the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, during working days, from 7:30 AM to 4:00 PM local time, until December 9, 2011.

A Pre-Proposal Conference followed by a mandatory site visit is scheduled for **November 28, 2011 at 10:30 AM (ChST)** at CUC Rota Power Plant No. 1, Songsong village, Rota to ensure that the contractors are fully aware of the work involved and familiarize with the site conditions. All proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the proposers due to lack of information or understanding of the plant site conditions in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or performance of work under the contract.

One (1) Original and Seven(7) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "RFP-12-003 – Urgent Repair: Fuel Tank Nos. R 1, R 3, R 4 & Pipeline, Rota Power Plant" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No.4, Joeten Dandan, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **December 15, 2011 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

The Offeror is required to submit a copy of his CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page – <http://www.dol.gov/esa/minwage/cnmi/cnmi.htm>. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws.

A Proposal Guarantee of 15 percent of the total proposal price must accompany the proposals. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or proposal bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. A Performance Bond of *one hundred (100%) percent* of the total proposal price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful proposers. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC. A Payment Bond of *one hundred (100%) percent* of the total proposal price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful proposers. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers questions, concerns and qualification be should handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Proposers are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code, with the proposal.

All inquiries must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 (ChST) on December 9, 2011**, to Mr. Manuel B. Sablan, Jr., Procurement & Supply Manager via email at msablan@cucgov.net; Ms. Mika Muna via email at mika.muna@cucgov.org; Mr. Venugopal Prabhakara, Project coordinator SO 2 via email at venu@cucgov.net and Mr. Edward Chargulaf, Technical Manager for Oil via email at ed.char@cucgov.org.

Selection procedure shall be in full compliance with CUC Procurement Regulations. CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and waive any imperfection in the proposal in the interest of the government.

/s/ ABE UTU MALAE
Executive Director

OIA's Babauta on Tinian today for harbor visit

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

U.S. Interior Assistant Secretary for Insular Affairs Tony Babauta will be on Tinian today mainly to inspect the Tinian harbor, which will soon undergo federally-funded emergency repairs that the Fitial administration approved with the concurrence of the Office of Insular Affairs.

Senate Vice President Jude Hofschneider (R-Tinian) said a notice to proceed will be issued Tuesday to Pacific Corp. Inc. for the Tinian harbor's emergency repairs worth some \$400,000.

"This is welcome news to the



Babauta

people of Tinian—the emergency repairs to the Tinian harbor. We're excited to know that the notice to proceed will be issued on Dec. 6 to the contractor. We're grateful for Mr. Tony Babauta for his support to Tinian infrastructure projects, and to the hard work of the local [capital improvement project] office, [Commonwealth Ports Authority], and the [Fitial] administration," Hofschneider told *Saipan Tribune*.

OIA also confirmed Babauta's day trip to Tinian, from Guam.

Rep. Trenton Conner (R-Tinian) separately said on Friday that Tinian officials will be welcoming and meeting with Babauta.

Hofschneider, chairman of the Tinian Legislative Delegation, said if the Tinian harbor isn't repaired soon, it will further derail economic activities on the island. He said among other things, ships carrying fuel shipments will have more difficulty docking at the port if the bollards collapse and therefore not accommodate sea vessels carrying fuel and other supplies to Tinian.

"We're very grateful the emergency repair project is taking off," Hofschneider said.

During a November 2010 forum on economic and labor development, OIA's Babauta approved \$400,000 in "redirection" of a previously awarded CIP grant funding from the Tinian Airport Instrument Landing System project to make "emergency repairs to Tinian harbor's fuel dock to ensure that fuel delivery is not interrupted, especially during inclement weather.

The emergency repair to the Tinian harbor is separate from the longstanding need to rehabilitate the harbor's breakwater that is expected to cost millions of dollars.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Dec. 5, 2000

Rota earmarks funds for dialysis patients

Rota lawmakers have appropriated some \$24,000 in revenues from pachinko and poker license fees to assist dialysis patients sent to Saipan for medical referral as well as to provide equipment for baseball activities on the island. House Vice Speaker Alejo M. Mendiola, the lone representative of the municipality to the lower house, said these funds will greatly help island residents who are in dire need of these assistance. Half of the money will go to paying house rent by patients from Rota who are undergoing dialysis treatment on Saipan, while the other half will be spent to purchase sporting equipment and other needs of the Luta Major League and the Rota Little League.

ABE steps up family literacy program

The Northern Marianas College Adult Basic Education recently graduated the first batch of its family literacy program students from Koblerville Elementary School, completing an intensive 12-week course that began last summer. After KES, ABE Director Fe Calixterio disclosed plans to extend ABE's services to other public schools in the hopes of increasing the knowledge and know-how of parents with low literacy skills. The NMC ABE's family literacy program is principally aimed at promoting parents' more active involvement in their children's learning.

Dec. 5, 2001

Cing to head Senate credentials panel

Senate leaders of the incoming 13th Legislature have chosen Sen. David M. Cing to chair the credentials committee that would be tasked to review all the qualifications of the incoming senators before they are sworn in. Senate Floor Leader-elect Sen. Joaquin G. Adriano said they chose Cing to head the credentials committee during a Senate caucus held in Rota last Saturday. "As you know the credentials committee will only become active during the swearing in and it will have the duty of screening the members before they are sworn in," said Adriano. Only six senators were present during the caucus, including incoming Senator-elect Diego M. Songao. Senators Ramon S. Guerrero, Pedro P. Reyes and Thomas P. Villagomez were absent.

AT devices, services available for school kids

The CNMI Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities announced that there are ways to avail of assistive technology and devices and services for school-aged children with disabilities. According to AT Coordinator Celia B. Lamkin, parents of children with disabilities can request an evaluation by writing to the school principal. "Their letter should state why an assistive technology evaluation may be helpful and how the assistive technology may help the child reach his or her educational goals," said Lamkin. In addition, the coordinator explained that it is helpful to obtain information about the assistive device requested to help parents discuss the options with school officials.

Dec. 5, 2002

Lawmaker backs port expansion

House Rep. Joseph Deleon Guerrero has rallied behind the Commonwealth Ports Authority's efforts to cultivate the Saipan Seaport as a major transshipment hub for the entire Micronesia with the introduction of a bill that aims to spur seaport activities in the Commonwealth. Guerrero's proposal-House Bill 13-223 or the Port of Saipan Expansion and Development Act of 2002-aims to transfer the title and ownership of specific public lands near the Saipan harbor to the CPA for port development and port-related support facilities. According to Guerrero, the Saipan port is one of the most important economic salvations of the CNMI but the size of the land under the jurisdiction of the ports authority is limited, hampering the port's potential for growth and development.

\$20K worth of foreign brand medicine seized

Some 400lbs of imported pharmaceutical items worth about \$20,000 have been confiscated and are now due for incineration. Bureau of Environmental Health officials said the items came mostly from travelers from China, South Korea, and the Philippines in the last 30 days. "It was brought to our attention by the Division of Customs. We're going to incinerate them now," said BHE officer John M. Tagabuel. The medicines, mostly over-the-counter drugs, prescription medicines, and herbal products-are mislabeled or do not contain English or understandable labels, according to BHE acting officer Edward Dlc. Camacho.



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Office of the Executive Director



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

CUC-RFP-12-004

SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC GENERATION (Phase No. 2)

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified and experienced Independent Power Producers (IPP) to supply electrical energy and other products generated from commercially proven Solar Photovoltaic (SPV) systems for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The solicitation seeks responses from suitably qualified developers from which the CUC intends to select one, or more, respondent(s) to negotiate Power Purchase Agreements (PPA) and install generation PV facilities that best fit the CUC requirements. Selected IPPs will be responsible for operating and maintaining all facets of the Generating Facility (ies) and for generating the required output as described in this RFP. The scope of services requested in this RFP shall include, but not be limited to, securing sites, all permits and approvals from governing agencies, and providing all labor, services and equipment necessary to design, procure, install, construct, test, commission, monitor, operate, and maintain fully operational Generating Facilities.

The RFP Package and Scope-of-Work may be obtained upon receipt of a non-refundable deposit from the CUC Treasury Section by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 for one set; at the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

A Pre-proposal Conference will be held on **December 01, 2011 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**, at CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Commercial Center in Saipan.

One (1) original and Six (6) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-RFP-12-004 "Solar Photovoltaic Generation (Phase No. 2)" to CUC Procurement & Supply Division, 3rd Floor, Room No.4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O.Box 501220, Dandan, Saipan MP 96950, no later than **December 16, 2011 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Proposals mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

All inquiries must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on **December 09, 2011** to Mr. Manuel B. Sablan, Jr. Purchasing Officer via email address msablan@cucgov.net; Ms. Janina Muna, Procurement & Supply Administrative Assistant via email address mika.muna@cucgov.org; and Mr. Wallon Young, Deputy Director, Power Generation/Distribution, via address email wallon59@yahoo.com. CUC will respond to any questions and clarifications only to prospective offerors who have registered with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division for the solicitation.

This Request for Proposal does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of proposals in anticipation of a contract. Selection procedure shall be in full compliance with CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and waive any imperfection in the Request for Proposal in the best interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

/s/ ABE UTU MALAE
Executive Director

**Commonwealth I Sankattan Siha Na Islas Mariana
Ofisinan I Gubietno
Dipåtamenton I Tano’ Pupbliku**

NOTICE OF PROPOSED LAND EXCHANGE

In accordance with Public Law 5-33, Section 4(b) (3) the Public Purpose Land Exchange Authorization Act, the Department of Public Lands hereby gives notice of its intent to enter into an exchange agreement to certain public lands in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Any interested parties of the general public may submit comments, data, views, or arguments of alternative proposals for the exchange of the public land. As further provided by Public Law 5-33, the following pertinent information is required to be published.

- i. The purposed of the land exchange is to acquire a private property for public purpose. The private property is described as EA 852-1-1, containing an area of 5,820 square meters, more or less, situated in As-Lito, Saipan.
- ii. The public land to be exchange is described as Lot 099 D 22, containing an area of 5,820 square meters more or less, located in Navy Hill, Saipan.
- iii. The private property is owned by Ms. Brenda Cabrera Manglona a resident of Saipan.
- iv. A copy of the proposed land exchange agreement may be obtained at the office of the Department of Public Lands, located on the 2nd floor of the Joeten Dandan Commercial Building in Dandan, Saipan.
- v. The Secretary of the Department of Public Lands shall accept written comments, views arguments or alternative proposals from interested parties on or before December 14, 2011 at the Department of Public Lands offices located in Saipan, Rota or Tinian.

NOTISIA POT MAPROPONEN MA’ATULAKAN TANO’ PUBLIKU

Sigun gi halom I Lai Publiku 5-33 Seksiona 4 (b)(3), Public Purpose Land Exchange Act, I Depattamenton I Tano' Publiku guini ha nã'i notisia i intension-ña para u ma’atulaikan pumalu na tano’ publiku siha gi halom Saipan, Commonwealth gi Sangkattan Na Islan Marianas siha. Maseha hãyi manentiresão na petsona siha gi halom I publiku henerã siña munna’hålom infotmasion, opiñon, pat testimonion kinentra gi tinahguen i propositu siha para I uma’atulaikan I tano’ publiku. Komu mäs mapribeniya ginen Lai Publiku 5-33, pettanesen infotmasion ni dinimãnda na para u mapuplika.

- i. I maproponen i ma’atulaikan tano’ para uma’chule I tano’ private para uson publiku. I diskripsion I tineteka na tano’ komo EA 852-1-R1, kinensisiste i åria 5,820 na dinankulon tano, potlumenus mäs, gaige giya As-Lito, Saipan.
- ii. I diskripsion i tano’ publiku Lot 099 D 22, kinensisite i åria 5,820 square meters, potlumenus mã, gaige giya Navy Hill, Saipan.
- iii. I dwennon tano’ si Sinora Brenda Cabrera Manglona, residente Saipan.
- iv. I kopian a maproponen i ma’atulaikan tano’ siña machule’ gi ofisinan Dipattamenton Tano’ Publiku, gaige gi sigundo bibienda gi as Joeten Dandan Commercial Building giya Dandan, Saipan.
- v. I Secretarian i Depattamenton Tano’ Publiku para hu aksepta I tinigi’i opiñon, pat testimonion kinentra gi tinahguen i mapropone na ma’atulakan tano’ publiku antes osino gi dia Decembre 14, 2011 gi Depattamenton Tano’.

ARONGORONG REEL POMWOL SIIWELIL FALÚWEER TOULAP

Sángi Alléghúl Toulap 5-33 Section 4 (b)(3), Bwulasiyool Ammwilil Falúweer Toulap ekki atotoowow ammataf igha ebwe siiwel eghús falúw mellól Seipél, Commonwealth Téél Falúwasch Marianas. Schóóka eyoor máfiyeer rebwe isisilong aghighiir, aweewe, aingiingi reel pomwol siiwel yeel. Alléghú Toulap ye 5-3 Section 4 (b)(3) e ayoora, lamal aweewe kka rebwe mweiti ngáli milikka ebwe akkatééló.

- i. Pomwol siiwelil falúweer toulap nge ekki bwáári EA 852-1-R1, eyoor ruwabwúghúw eliigh me eew (5,820 square meters), elapeló me ngäre eghús, elo San Roque, Seipél. Tilighial buley yeel nge, eyoor mereel Bwulasiyool Falúweer Toulap ngäre óubwe ghuley fischey.
- ii. Falúweer toulap yeel nge Lot 099 D 22, eyoor ruwabwúghúw eliigh me eew 5,820 lapel falúw ye, elo Marpi, Seipél.
- iii. Ms. Brenda Cabrera Manglona elollo , Seipél, yaal falúw ye ebwe siiwel ngale falúweer toulap.
- iv. Tilghial siiwel yeel nge emmwel óubwe bwughi mereel mwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap, elo aruwowal (2nd floor) me Joeten Dandan Commercial Building loll Tuturam, Seipel.
- v. Samwoolul Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap nge ebwe bwughil ischil mángemáng, aingiingil mereel amweyút mmwal Tumwur 14, 2011, mellól Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap iye elo Seipé.

**Commonwealth I Sankattan Siha Na Islas Mariana
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- i. The purposed of the land exchange is to acquire a private property for public purpose. The private property is described as Lot No. 394, containing an area of 40,000 square meters, more or less, situated in San Roque, Saipan.
- ii. The public land to be exchange is described as Lot 003 A 23, containing an area of 40,000 square meters more or less, located in Marpi, Saipan.
- iii. The private property is owned by The Heirs of Fabiana Nekkai a resident of Tanapag, Saipan.
- iv. A copy of the proposed land exchange agreement may be obtained at the office of the Department of Public Lands, located on the 2nd floor of the Joeten Dandan Commercial Building in Dandan, Saipan.
- v. The Secretary of the Department of Public Lands shall accept written comments, views arguments or alternative proposals from interested parties on or before December 14, 2011 at the Department of Public Lands offices located in Saipan, Rota or Tinian.

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- i. I maproponen i ma’atulaikan tano’ para uma’chule I tano’ private para uson publiku. I diskripsion I tineteka na tano’ komo Lot No. 394, kinensisiste i åria 40,000 na dinankulon tano, potlumenus mäs, gaige giya San Roque, Saipan.
- ii. I diskripsion i tano’ publiku Lot No. 003 A 23, kinensisite i åria 40,000 square meters, potlumenus mã, gaige giya Makpi, Saipan.
- iii. I dwennon tano’ si The Hiers of Fabiana Nakkai, residenten Tanapag, Saipan.
- iv. I kopian a maproponen i ma’atulaikan tano’ siña machule’ gi ofisinan Dipattamenton Tano’ Publiku, gaige gi sigundo bibienda gi as Joeten Dandan Commercial Building giya Dandan, Saipan.
- v. I Secretarian i Depattamenton Tano’ Publiku para hu aksepta I tinigi’i opiñon, pat testimonion kinentra gi tinahguen i mapropone na ma’atulakan tano’ publiku antes osino gi dia Decembre 14, 2011 gi Depattamenton Tano’.

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- i. Pomwol siiwelil falúweer toulap nge ekki bwáári Lot 394, eyoor ruwabwúghúw eliigh me eew (40,000 square meters), elapeló me ngäre eghús, elo San Roque, Seipél. Tilighial buley yeel nge, eyoor mereel Bwulasiyool Falúweer Toulap ngäre óubwe ghuley fischey.
- ii. Falúweer toulap yeel nge Lot No. 003 A 23, eyoor ruwabwúghúw eliigh me eew 40,000 lapel falúw ye, elo Marpi, Seipél.
- iii. The Hiers of Fabiana Nekkai elollo Tanapag, Seipél, yaal falúw ye ebwe siiwel ngale falúweer toulap.
- iv. Tilghial siiwel yeel nge emmwel óubwe bwughi mereel mwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap, elo aruwowal (2nd floor) me Joeten Dandan Commercial Building loll Tuturam, Seipel.
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Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

When faith is a barrier to care

The Roman Catholic Church and its affiliated nonprofit organizations have every right to hold true to their religious convictions while doing good works. But when a nonprofit, religious or not, is carrying out the government's work with government money, it must do so on the government's terms.

The House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform should keep that in mind as its members take up the issue of federal grants intended to help the victims of human trafficking build new lives. Some congressional Republicans are, strangely, accusing the Obama administration of religious discrimination because the Department of Health and Human Services did not offer a grant to a Catholic organization to continue its work on behalf of trafficking victims, which includes providing counseling, housing, legal and medical assistance.

What that work doesn't include is providing, or referring clients for, contraceptive and abortion services, which would run counter to Catholic tenets. So, although the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops had received government funding since 2006 to help such victims, it was passed over in the new round of grants, which went to three other organizations. The bishops' conference ranked highly overall among the applicants, but it could not expect to win when it was unwilling to provide high-priority medical services.

The federal agency warned applicants earlier this year that "strong preference" for \$4.5 million in anti-trafficking grants would be given to those that provided the full range of family planning services to victims, who were brought to this country either as unwilling workers in the sex trade or to perform forced labor. It should go without saying that the victims of sex crimes must be offered all possible services related to reproductive health. And there is nothing discriminatory about requiring all applicants to meet the agency's specifications.

It is the government's job to determine which services will or will not be offered under public programs. As a lawsuit brought against the federal government by the American Civil Liberties Union contends, the Department of Health and Human Services indirectly promotes the viewpoints of some religions when it allows faith-based nonprofit groups to set their own agendas with taxpayer money. A hearing on the suit was held in U.S. District Court in October; a ruling is pending.

Clients of government-sponsored services should not receive significantly different levels of service depending on which organization they happen to be assigned to. Faith-based groups that want a share of government grants and contracts must be willing to do all the work the government outlines, not just what conforms to their religious doctrines.

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Selling ourselves in a job interview

The ominous Nov. 27, 2011, has come and gone. What happens now in the job market will be interesting. However, this situation is really an opportunity for all of us that are seeking a job. But unless we know how to present—sell—ourselves to the prospective employer we will keep looking for a job, never realizing why we are not hired.

The following comments are suggestions that have proven of value when seeking a job. I wish to give credit to Alfred A. Pangelinan of the local Department of Labor from whom I have borrowed the following suggestions.

Let's begin with ATTITUDE! This is perhaps the most important one. Attitudes are communicated in a dozen ways. It can be verbal or non-verbal. It also is projected from our grooming, our interview preparation, our verbal skills, and body language. It is usually the most important factor during the interview.

SKILLS is another one of the most important traits we bring to the interview. Before applying for any job, know the skills we possess. Sometimes these skills are hidden such as we are good team players or have a good talent for problem solving. Unless we explain them during the interview, the interviewer has no idea that we possess such skills. One of the saddest things we can say to an interviewer is that we are willing to do anything. Wow! What an easy way not to get the job.

Our VERBAL COMMUNICATION reveals our thinking and ability to express our thoughts. Imagine applying for a front desk job and not being able to clearly express ourselves to customers. What is the result? Whatever we say communicates something about us such as our feelings at that moment and our attitude. Even the tone of our voice conveys our inner thoughts and feelings.

Our NON-VERBAL COMMUNICATION consists of body language. If we slouch while sitting or put our feet up on a chair or desk, or chew or smoke, what are we telling the interviewer? Does good posture or poor posture express the same thing?

A few more quick reminders are:

1. Dress appropriately and brush our hair and have a clean looking face. Ladies, not too much makeup, please.
2. Maintain good eye contact with the interviewer. It will show our interest.
3. Avoid nervous and annoying movements. If we tell the interviewer we are nervous, he will understand.
4. Let the interviewer take the lead. Let him extend his hand and welcome us. Wait until he offers us to sit.
5. At all times be polite and speak in a clear and full voice.
6. Always show good manners at all times which include a "thank you" after the interview.
7. Be business-like, but friendly. It is important to remember that interviews must have a good beginning and a good ending. Often the first and last impressions are what the interviewer remembers most.

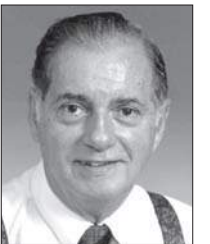
The above hints should help make the interview go smoothly for us. However remember we must practice them so that they become natural. Stand in front of a mirror and practice them and also on a friend before heading off for the interview.

An interview is highly competitive. There are many people seeking the same position. Therefore it is imperative that we sell ourselves as the best candidate.

The following is a list of the most commonly asked interview ques-

By **ANTHONY PELLEGRINO**
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Pellegrino is a longtime businessman in the CNMI and is the former president of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce.



tions. They can also pose the most trouble for us. I strongly advise that we develop answers to these questions and practice them until we feel comfortable with our answers.

1. Can you tell me a bit about yourself?
2. Why should I hire you?
3. What are your strengths?
4. What do you consider to be your major weakness?
5. Why do you have interest in this field?
6. Why did you select this company?
7. What are your future plans?
8. How much do you expect to be paid?
9. Why did you leave your last job?
10. How much related experience do you have?
11. What will your reference say about you?
12. What do you like best or least about your last job or schooling?

The job application form is very important to employers. It reveals a lot about us without our saying a word. The application form helps to screen out weak applicants immediately. Here a few short rules to follow:

1. Be neat and complete as possible. Neatness makes a good impression. It shows that we pay attention to details and are willing to make the extra effort.

2. Be positive: A positive attitude serves us well in every aspect of our job search. Make sure to include all the positive things we have done.

3. Be creative. Look at each space on the application form as an opportunity to present our skills and abilities. But don't exaggerate.

There are several reason why we search for a job. They are as follows:

1. We want to or need to earn and receive money. We need this money to pay our living expenses and to buy the other things we want.
2. We desire to meet and be with other people. Our job will allow us to make new friends and enjoy other people's company.
3. We crave a feeling of self-worth when we do a good job. We like the feeling that others count on us. The job is recognized as our accomplishment.

As we prepare ourselves for the job interview, know what we want in our future. Do we like working with our hands? Are we seeking a manual labor job? Do we like providing a service? What type of services do we enjoy providing? Do we want a customer oriented job? Let's decide before we go job seeking.

There are two types of jobs:

A. Skilled jobs: These are the jobs that require formal education or special training, i.e. dentist, computer programmer, chef, secretary, managerial, accountant and many others.

B. Unskilled jobs: These are the jobs that do not require formal edu-

See **SELLING** on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Color me autism blue on Christmas

It was in the second half of the '90s. The count was one child out of every thousand. Daughter Andrea was diagnosed with ASD while we were living within a stone's throw off the beltway on the nation's capital, Virginia side. Her three-year younger brother Daniel rated a similar diagnosis and the marital ties snapped. As did other marriages, I discovered later. While misery likes company, it dreads intimacy.

At the World Autism Conference in Melbourne down under in 2002, the count was one out of 500, and five years later, it came down to 1 per one hundred. That's about the count when I last saw Saipan's Frank and Vivian's Nick, of similar built but a year older than my Daniel. The count is now about one per 89 by some account, and a friend reports that incidences of autism declined dramatically in California when thimerosal (mercury) preservative in children's vaccines was discontinued. A formal study in 2004 on vaccines and autism states that "the body of epidemiological evidence favors rejection of a casual relationship between thimerosal-containing vaccines and autism." Ask Courtney Zietke of MHS for another perspective.

Other than occasional notes from Andrea and Daniel's mom, and a Skype session with them in Ohio while visiting my eldest this summer in the outskirts of Chicago, we remain 12 time zones apart, and that's more than geographical distance. ASD has left many covenants by the wayside. What started as a marriage of profound care between two persons in service toward a more humane society deteriorated into a relationship of remorse and recrimination in the aftermath of the double whammy that hit the family. Distance offers but momentary reprieve.

Just when I thought I had distanced myself far enough from watching my children's helplessness even as they attend special ASD education in Ohio after Mom took early retirement from the State Department, the English *China Daily* last week put out a full page coverage on autism, and followed it up a couple of issues later with individual incidences

and how they were faring.

Then NewsAsia, Media Corp.'s Singapore-based TV station, reported therapy sessions that involved dolphins and elephants in Southeast Asia. I remember getting a report on son Daniel taking an immediate liking and demonstrable skill in riding a horse on his first mount. Autism's poster veterinarian Temple Grandin had an Emmy award winning HBO-movie made of her biography for designing holding pens with "squeeze machines" for cows, demonstrating an intimate understanding of bovine behavior and preferences.

Through the years, I have become convinced that the best way to deal with autism is to learn to live with it rather than worrying about the latest fix in the market. In fact, highlighting how a child is "differently-abled" is a better way to go than lamenting what the public sector is unable to do with one's child! Americans do have a tendency to fling themselves in search for a "cure" when confronted by an "abnormality," and many a cinematic portrayal of the valiant efforts made by individuals, sometimes against public and private institutions who are threatened by the intense passion of the crusader, is a common docu subject for Oscar awards.

Real life, however, yearns more for mere acceptance as members of society needing a legitimate place rather than shunned freaks for their categorized aberrant behaviors. American public school systems try to "mainstream" special education efforts, at least in my experience with the CNMI PSS, but it does not have the requisite muscles to adequately supply needed resources and expertise, nor does it bother to understand the limits and possibilities of the neurological "disorder"; often, special education gropes with the most recent methodological fad dictated from funding source at the expense of efficacy, and to the detriment of those in general education.

Now come CNMI parents (Larissa, Merissa and Barbara are mothers I recall with a cause) of ASD-diagnosed children in partnership with the

By **JAIME VERGARA**

Special to the Saipan Tribune



Jaime Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune's Opinion Section

NMPASI office in network and fellowship being asked to give a particular ribbon to drape the public Christmas tree on island. How nice!

Blue. Make it blue, members of the Autism Society-CNMI were asked. That would be the color of sadness, in some metaphor; clarity on another. "Blue skies, smiling at me," croons an old familiar tune. "Blue days, all of them gone; nothing but blue skies from now on!" I've displayed enough sadness through the years that the first meaning may abide. The parental anxieties around the table at the last AS-CNMI meeting showed no shortage of battered nerves. I will go for the second this round. Clarity. Or, my lucidity that unclarity about ASD, not unlike cancer, will abide a long, long while.

A reader from Hawaii chanced on one of our autism articles and wrote to inquire about autism incidences in our part of the world. She has three in her household. Bless her heart. She is trying to get insurance companies to cover remedial measures for autism cases in Aloha land. She's got an uphill battle on her hands, though I might add that were we a nation with universal medical coverage, she may not have to raise her issue! The cost of autism remedies is expensive; the smile on an autistic child's face when s/he accomplishes something is priceless. That, I am blue clear!

The oak trees have long shed their leaves in my cold part of the world, but I am tying my blue, blue ribbon around the white oak tree this season.

Achu' gi kanton lamasan tasi

Desde kuattro mit años antes man-estaba man-dañkulon paderon gi kanton lamasan tasi yan kantit. Adumididi' kinanu' i pisu ni man-dañkulun napu, diariu. Siempre un' dia u fan basnag gigon gueku haligin niha.

Parehu este na finapos achu' yan i programan man-ritirau ni adumididi' kinanu' i halige ni un' manadan napun dispetdisiu ginen i man-ma-elihe. Mana' guahaye lai 'nai i administrasion para u disidi añaian 'nai para u fan apase.

Este na lai i tumutuhon muna' kohu i fondun programan man-ritirau. Mana' pinalo'pu' este 'nai man-sabiu lehislatura hana'en maisa siha tres pot sientu na subrida gi kada sakan. I man-sabiu mismu muna' dañau i programa sa' mampos megai na kanai gi halom tarun inasnen tukon.

Dispues, kulan kustumbre i bisiun mafuegu i asuntu 'lau i akague na kanai tiha tuñgu' hafa bidadaña i agapa'. De dios mihu! Sin inbatgu, mampos gueku esta i pisun programan man-ritirau ya mauleg ta abirigua i man-sabiu kau guaha kabales na satbasion sineda' niha.

■ ■ ■ ■

Finenina ha rega i mafanana'an "asigan haane" gi hilu achu' rubentasion. 'Nai monhayan i tautau manmanhoka para uson niha, hana' tinatiye nu i sagun atulai, tinilada pot tinilada. Man-ma'agañg tod u tautau gi señsoñg para u machule' patten niha. Kontodu man-malañgu ni man-estaba Saipan mana' fan mañage.

Ayudu na sumen dañkulu este na regalon ginen i Saina, piot para tod u familia ni fumafana' pipinu' na apas kandet. Ayudu lokue' 'nai ma-asnen tukun i seblante para uson familia dispues. I mas likidu na asuntu guine na suette ginen hilu' i mapatten atulai gi kada guma'. Trabiha memetgot ha' tradision sensian komunida. Bien prubechu para i mañeluta siha!

■ ■ ■ ■

Iya Luta 'nai gaigne hale' DelRosario sa' ayu na isla 'nai ha tutuhongue' i familia. Machalapon dispues papa' esta Guam, hulu' Marianas yan Pohnpei. Dañkulu respetuthu nu i edda' 'nai ma-im-

printa lastron gueloghu yan guelaghu. Maseha ñgaian na tiempu, iya Luta motmut kampu gi korasonhu kumu tanu' primet mañainahu.

Sige machalapon i familia entre isla siha. Guaha na Rosario ilegña familian siboyas. Guaha lokue familian ñgañga'. Tihu tuñgu manu ham na patte 'nai man-gaige. Lau ta polu, pot para chaleg ha', kumu familian ahus yan manog! Lau yahu humusga ginen manu mage ennau i siboyas yan ñañga yan hafa estoriaña.

■ ■ ■ ■

Guaha siha famaguonta ginen Tinian yan Luta man-eskuekuela gi Northern Marianas College. Ha kone' mage famaguon niha kumu unika saina. Ha tutuhon un' dañkulu na sakrifisiu 'nai hana' ma-utot i kandet apartment pot para u guaha dididi' para kinanu' niha yan otr u nesessidat familia.

Tantu de abarambau malagnos salape' scholarship, esta ni para kinanu' niha hokog gi hilu tod u sakrifisiun niha. 'Nai esta ni mona ni tatte, man-basta man-eskuela ya bira siha tatte gi tano' niha. Hita mismu sumapet este siha na estudianteta. Hita mismu humuchom appottunidat niha makomple guinifen niha manma-eduka. Ai bidaña i programan scholarship!

■ ■ ■ ■

Guaha ma'añau matai sa' siempre pumara humaguñg. Entre guahu ha', "Ke lau desde ñgai'an i matai 'nai sige ha' humaguñg? Hmmm! Mañan tatamudu!

■ ■ ■ ■

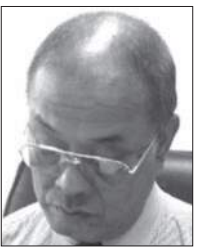
Ilegña un' daibites gi otr u daibites, "Yangin mampos mames haga'mu, sumuke hau dididi' asiga ya u tinempla tatte". De dios! Achcha baba ha' i asiga yan asukat para i chetnot mames haga'.

■ ■ ■ ■

Masañgane i intetprete ni mediku gi finu Iñglis, "Tell him that as soon as the tests are done, we'd give him a shot and proceed with the surgery". Ha birague' i intetprete ya ha sañgane i malañgu, "Ilegña i mediku na gigon monhayan hau mariseta, para un' mapake dispues 'nai operasion".

By **JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.**

Special to the Saipan Tribune



John S. DelRosario is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune's Opinion Section

Umesalau hulu' i malañgu, "Ha? Hamyu pagu para in' pinu'yu' guine? Kone'yu pagugu ha' tatte gi plasan batkon aire ya bai birayu para Saipan". Dispues 'nai ma-esplilika hafa finu i mediku.

SELLING

From Page 10

cation or special training. You will usually receive training on the job. Some examples are cashier, service station attendant, or a waiter. The pay for unskilled jobs is not as good as skilled jobs. Also promotions may be limited.

However, employers expect high quality work from both of these classified jobs. Our decision on the type of job we want will determine the type of lifestyle we and our family will have. And most important of all, we must find a job that we will enjoy otherwise we will fail and soon quit.

Let me be blunt. Ladies and gentlemen, unless we develop an attitude and a determination to work, we and the CNMI will always be poor. We workers are the backbone of our country. Our willingness to work is the only positive road to economic stability and to our personal happiness.

The government cannot do it for us. Foreign investors cannot do it for us. Only we can do it! Will we continue to stand in line at the food stamp office begging or will be get a job? The choice is ours.

Think about the following quotes:

"Choose a job you love and you will never have to work a day in your life."—Confucius

"The minute you begin to do what you really want to do, it's really a different kind of life."—Buckminster Fuller

"Love and work, work and love—that's all there is."—Sigmund Freud

"The harder I work, the luckier I get."—Samuel Goldwyn

In closing, I have worked since my youth and in various parts of the world. I am not about to stop because I enjoy it. Work is my pleasure in life and brings me great happiness. If this were not true, how could I talk about it with us? Find a job you love, and love the job you do! Happy hunting!

Don't forget to *smile*! Give it to all you meet! Have a great week!

Letter to the Editor

More information, please!

The article "I take my job seriously" makes sense and it seems that Mr. Alfred Pangelinan is taking the bull by the horn. The shortcoming is that Mr. Pangelinan failed to show what his office actually achieved in prior years. A table pointing out the historical data of the numbers of intact and successful job placements over the last five years would give us some information the impact his office has achieved for the time period under consideration. Then of course, Mr. Pangelinan should add more information in simple and concrete terms what his office completed, and employ-






ment services that would be needed for the foreseeable future. If he could provide these preliminary historical data, this would give us some foundational information to see where he is driving us to in terms of employment services under his jurisdiction. Also, it would help if we know the website address he alluded to in the article.

Francisco R. Agulto
Chalan Kanoa, Saipan

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
				
Mostly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers. East winds 20 to 25 mph.	Partly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers. East winds 20 to 25 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲ 86° ▼ 76°	▲ 87° ▼ 76°	▲ 87° ▼ 76°	▲ 87° ▼ 76°	▲ 87° ▼ 76°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	▲ 86 ▼ 79
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲ 87 ▼ 77
Yap	Showers	▲ 89 ▼ 79
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲ 86 ▼ 78
Pohnpei	Showers	▲ 86 ▼ 76
Kosrae	Showers	▲ 86 ▼ 76
Majuro	Showers	▲ 85 ▼ 79

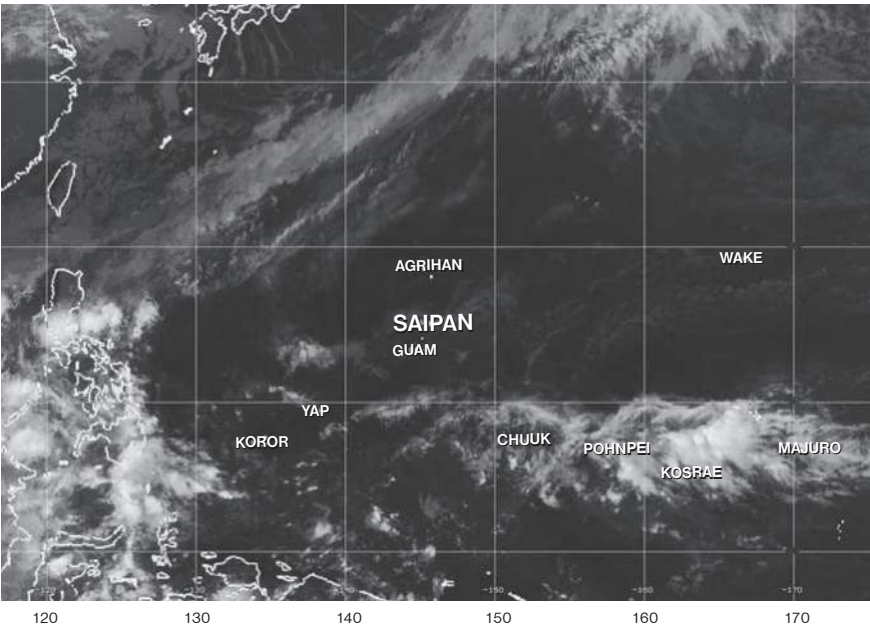
Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲ 64 ▼ 59
Beijing	Snow	▲ 42 ▼ 26
Hong Kong	Showers	▲ 73 ▼ 68
Honolulu	Cloudy	▲ 81 ▼ 73
London	Showers	▲ 46 ▼ 38
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲ 67 ▼ 41
Manila	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 87 ▼ 76
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	▲ 78 ▼ 50
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲ 79 ▼ 70
New York	Cloudy	▲ 58 ▼ 50
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲ 56 ▼ 46
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 46 ▼ 40
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	▲ 56 ▼ 44
Rome	Mostly Sunny	▲ 66 ▼ 46
Salem	Sunny	▲ 48 ▼ 33
San Francisco	Sunny	▲ 62 ▼ 44
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲ 47 ▼ 35
Tokyo	Showers	▲ 51 ▼ 43
Washington, DC	Cloudy	▲ 60 ▼ 55

Tides

Saipan Harbor				
4:24 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.4 Feet	
9:28 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.9 Feet	
3:38 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet	
10:58 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.3 Feet	

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2011
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front extends southwestward from 25N142E to beyond 130E at 18N. Cloudiness and showers are found along and northwest of this boundary to beyond 25N. A trade-wind disturbance is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms near Pohnpei, Kosrae, Kwajalein and Majuro between 4N and 10N from 154E to 176E. A diffuse shear line is producing cloudiness and scattered showers within 60 miles of a line from 13N137E to 17N151E. This line passes just north of Saipan.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:29 AM	5:46 PM
Tuesday	6:30 AM	5:46 PM
Wednesday	6:30 AM	5:46 PM
Thursday	6:31 AM	5:46 PM
Friday	6:31 AM	5:47 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	1:53 PM	1:50 AM
Tuesday	2:31 PM	2:37 AM
Wednesday	3:11 PM	3:25 AM
Thursday	3:54 PM	4:14 AM
Friday	4:40 PM	5:05 AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

- PICTURES**
 - ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
 - BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
 - BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
 - SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
 - TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.
- ANNOUNCEMENTS**
 - COMMUNITY BRIEFS

- Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

- For pictures:**
- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
 - Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
 - Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
 - Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
 - For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.
- For announcements:**
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

- the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOVEMBER 17, 2011

DEPARTURES	ARRIVALS
GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)	ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)
C05062 2:10am 2:40am 1, 5	C05064 5:15am 5:45am 1, 5
SAIPAN (SPN)-ROTA (ROP)	ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN (SPN)
C05064 4:15am 4:50am 1, 5	C05062 3:10am 3:45am 1, 5
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)	GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN
C05070 4:15am 5:45am 1, 5 via ROP	C05062 2:10am 3:45am 1, 5 via ROP
C05070 4:35am 5:25am 2, 3, 4, 6, 7	C05069 2:45am 3:35am 2, 3, 4, 6, 7
C05068 8:25am 9:15am Daily	C05071 7:00am 7:50am Daily
C05074 12:10pm 1:00pm 1, 4, 5, 7	C05073 10:05am 10:55am 1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05076 3:10pm 4:00pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7	C05075 1:40pm 2:30pm 1, 4, 5, 7
C05078 6:50pm 7:40pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7	C05077 5:30pm 6:20pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05078 7:00pm 7:50pm 3, 6	C05077 5:40pm 6:30pm 3, 6
C05072 9:55pm 10:45pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7	C05079 8:35pm 9:25pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05072 10:05pm 10:55pm 3, 6	C05079 8:45pm 9:35pm 3, 6

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)	NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN
DL287 6:00am 8:35am Daily	DL298 10:25am 3:00pm Daily
DL297 4:35pm 7:20pm Daily	DL288 8:40pm 1:15am+1 Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)	SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN
OZ606 2:10am 6:00am 1	OZ603 9:00am 2:20pm Daily
OZ606 2:40am 6:30am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	OZ605 7:40pm 1:00am+1 7
OZ604 3:20pm 7:10pm Daily	OZ605 8:10pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)	BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN
OZ608 3:35am 7:05am 4, 7	OZ607 9:00pm 2:20am+1 3, 6

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)	GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN
3U8646 4:20am 7:30am 2, 6	3U8645 7:40pm 3:00am+1 1, 5

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)	SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN
3U8648 6:10am 8:40am 1, 4, 5, 7	3U8647 10:40pm 5:00am+1 3, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)	MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN
OZ606/701 2:10am 11:15am 1 via ICN	OZ704/603 12:10am 2:20pm Daily via ICN
OZ606/701 2:40am 11:15am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	DL172/288 8:00am 1:15am+1 Daily via NRT
C05070/191 4:35am 9:45am 3, 6 via GUM	C0190/5077 10:55am 6:30pm 3, 6 via GUM
DL287/173 6:00am 10:25pm Daily via NRT	C0190/5079 10:55am 9:35pm 3, 6 via GUM
C05068/183 8:25am 9:25pm 2, 5 via GUM	OZ702/605 12:45pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN
C05068/183 8:25am 9:40pm 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	OZ702/605 12:45pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C05076/183 3:10pm 9:25pm 2, 5 via GUM	PR110/C05071 10:15pm 7:50am+1 1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
C05076/183 3:10pm 9:40pm 1, 4, 7 via GUM	C0192/5071 10:25pm 7:50am+1 2, 5 via GUM-Palau
C05076/193 3:10pm 11:00pm 2, 5 via GUM-Palau	C0184/5071 11:10pm 7:50am+1 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
C05072/PR111 9:55pm 7:50am 1, 5 via GUM	C0184/5071 11:59pm 7:50am+1 2, 5 via GUM
C05072/PR111 10:05pm 7:50am 3, 6 via GUM	

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)	HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN
OZ606/721 2:10am 12:00pm 1 via ICN	OZ724/603 12:30am 2:20pm Daily via ICN
OZ606/721 2:40am 12:00pm 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ722/605 1:15pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN
C05076/179 3:05pm 10:25pm 1, 5 via GUM	OZ722/605 1:15pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ604/723 3:20pm 10:30pm Daily via ICN	C0180/5071 11:15pm 7:50am+1 1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 5K: FlyGuam; 3U: Sichuan Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
Guam-Rota				FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan							
FRE 100	17:50	18:20	Daily				
Saipan-Rota				Tinian-Saipan			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
				FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Hyatt kicks off holiday with tree lighting ceremony

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Hyatt Regency Saipan marked the beginning of its holiday festivities with the annual lighting ceremony of its Christmas tree at the hotel lobby on Friday.

Hotel guests gathered at the lobby as four beneficiaries of the Make-A-Wish Foundation had the honor of officially turning on the lights for the 25-foot Christmas tree.

The ceremony symbolized hope for Jovilita Brondo, whose 5-year-old son, John Emmanuel, is undergoing chemotherapy in his battle against leukemia and was among those who turned on the Christmas tree lights.

"My Christmas wish for my son is to have total healing," said Brondo.

Jessica Basa of Kannat Tabla, for her part, said she is "thankful to the Lord" that her daughter, Trini B. Magofna, who was diagnosed with a heart condition when she was born, is with them yet again to celebrate another Christmas.

"Hopefully, God knows how

much I care about my daughter and I pray that she will be healthy," said Basa.

Guests sipped wine and juice drinks while being serenaded by the in-house band, Star Society, with a repertoire of well-loved holiday tunes.

Members of the audience were also entertained by the award-winning Umang Glee Club of Koblerville Elementary School, which was invited for the first time to perform at the ceremony.

About 30 club members from second to sixth grades donned red shirts and Santa hats as they crooned Christmas carols in English, Filipino, and Japanese, much to the delight of the crowd.

"We're very honored and happy that they called us to sing at their lighting ceremony," Karen Alla, who conducts the group along with John Jimeno, told *Saipan Tribune*.

Alla disclosed that it took them one and a half weeks of practice after school to prepare for Friday's performance.

"We've added to our song col-



Hyatt Regency Saipan staff applauds after Make-A-Wish Foundation officially switched on the Christmas lights on the 25-foot Christmas tree at the hotel lobby last Friday.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

lection Japanese songs because we want to sing languages of all

groups here on Saipan as much as possible," she said.



Members of Umang Glee Club sing a Christmas song in Japanese.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

Alla said the group is scheduled to perform at different programs and venues this holiday, including the Christmas party for the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. and the *man'amko*.

"If anybody wants the Umang Glee Club to perform in their corporate parties this holiday, please give us a call or send us a message on Facebook. We accept in-kind and monetary donations," said Alla.

Proceeds of the donation will be used when the group defends its title at the 2012 Tumon Bay Music Festival in Guam slated for March.

"Times may be hard but this holiday, we have to stick together and work together as a community. If the Umang Glee

Club can do it as kids, we can do it as adults," said Rose Ada-Hocog, a parent of one of the club members.

For information, call 285-7109 or 989-1974 or send a message to Umang Glee Facebook page.

Hyatt marketing communications assistant manager Luis Villagomez said they decided to invite the Umang Glee Club so that guests can feel the holiday spirit through the group's melodious performance.

"This was definitely a very symbolic night for all of us," said Villagomez. "Despite the gloomy situation in the CNMI, the lighting of the Christmas tree gave hope for everyone in the community."



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Volunteers from Saipan Awaodori Team and PDM Promoters Inc. pose for a group photo by the giant Christmas Tree located at Paseo de Marianas on Saturday. A total of 59 volunteers helped out in the monthly cleanup in Garapan, which collected a total of 620 lbs of trash.

Garapan cleanup yields 620 lbs of trash



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, Saipan Awaodori leader Sheena Saures, Thyvieann They, Taka Borja, and Virginia Imperial smile for the camera as they picked up trash at Paseo de Marianas last Dec. 3.

A total of 59 volunteers from PDM Promoters, Inc., Saipan Awaodori dancers and family members helped out in the monthly cleanup in Garapan last Saturday.

Sonia Siwa of PDM Promoters disclosed that the group collected a total of 620 lbs of trash.

The group, which holds the monthly cleanup usually every first Saturday of the month, picked up trash along Coral Tree Avenue to the fire station

then Beach Road straight up to ABC Store and the Star Sands Plaza area.

"The monthly cleanup is one way to teach them [Awaodori dancers] the value of community service and having a clean environment," said Siwa.

Siwa thanked the Division of Environmental Quality for providing trash bags and gloves and Dickerson and Quinn for the refreshments of volunteers. (Clarissa V. David)

The Department of Public Safety's Police Division and Traffic Investigation Unit will be conducting DUI/sobriety checkpoints this week.

On Wednesday, Dec. 7, the first setup will be from 7pm to 8:15pm, along Chalan Monsignor Guerrero in Chalan Kiya, in front of the CUC Waterloo. The second setup will be from

DPS sets sobriety checkpoints this week

10:30pm to 11:45pm, along Beach Road Chalan Lau Lau, adjacent of Dr. Benusto Kai-pat's residence.

On Thursday, Dec. 8, the first setup will be from 6:30pm to 7:45pm, along Beach Road Susupe in front of the Mina-

tchom Atdao. The second setup is from 10:30pm to 11:45pm, along Beach Road Garapan in front of Bank Pacific.

On Friday, Dec. 9, the first setup will be from 7:30pm to 8:45pm, along Beach Road, Chalan Piao, in front of Hop-

wood Jr. High School. The second setup will be from 10:30pm to 11:45pm, along Chalan Pale Arnold, Chalan Lau Lau, in front of the IT&E building.

Each checkpoint will last at least 75 minutes (1 hour and

15 minutes).

In addition, traffic investigators and highway patrol officers will be conducting highway criminal interdictions, saturation patrols, aggressive driver interdictions, and laser (speed detection)

enforcement.

This activity is part of the department's effort to deter, detect, and apprehend impaired drivers and to ensure that all vehicle occupants are protected.

For more information, contact Sgt. Anthony Macaranas, Traffic Section, at (670)664-9084 or 9085. **(DPS)**



GES names new student leaders

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Garapan Elementary School students selected a new set of leaders who will represent their concerns and voices.

Sixth grader Joyce Anne Nisola was voted student council president for this school year. Along with newly elected vice president John Jacob Canape, secretary Jemimah Colegio, and treasurer Leonardo Salalila, Nisola was congratulated by Supreme Court acting chief justice Alexandro Castro in a special ceremony Tuesday on campus.

Castro, who inducted the new officers and members of the GES student council, encouraged them to become role models and ambassador of goodwill to all their peers. Castro said the

student council is a great opportunity for every student to assume the role of leaders that will help them become responsible members of the community.

Derwin Johnson, school counselor and one of the council's advisers, said that GES makes sure that the council is given the proper attention because students are the school's highest priority.

Through the student council, upper graders are given the chance to better understand their roles as students, as young leaders, and as citizens of the community, Johnson said.

He said the council has been instrumental in addressing issues and requirements about accreditation and other areas because the organization collaborates and provides input to the school.

According to Johnson, among



Acting Chief Justice Alexandro Castro, center, poses with newly inducted officers of Garapan Elementary School Student Council during a special ceremony on campus Tuesday.



MONETH G. DEPOSA

Members and officers of the Garapan Elementary School Student Council, along with the school officials and guests, gather for a group photo after the induction ceremony on campus Tuesday.

the objectives of the student organization is to strive for good citizenship, respect for all individuals in the school and community, involve all students in sharing ideas to make the school the best it can be, help all students work together, and give all students the chance to practice democracy in action.

Any officer or representative may be removed from office by a majority vote of the student council membership for poor attendance at council meetings, failure to perform required duties, or failure to follow school rules or class rules.

Coca-Cola winners unwrap holiday cheer

As the holidays draw near, lucky Coca-Cola lovers are pleasantly surprised to find early holiday gifts when they unwrap their Coca-Cola 12-can Fridge Packs. True to its campaign creed of "Open Happiness," Coca-Cola brings holiday cheer by giving away close to 200 prize certificates wrapped around cans of select Coca-Cola 12-can Fridge Packs, now available at participating retailers all over Saipan.

From the time the promo started in late October, more than a dozen winners have trooped to the Coca-Cola office to redeem prize certificates for exciting prizes. These include Coca-Cola holiday prize package winners Eunhee Chung, Perfecto Aman, Delly Dela Rosa, Penglong Wu, Gil M. San Nicolas, and Danya Q. Borja. Zeny Baridano and Antonio R.

Cabrera each won a loaded Subway cash card, while Davilyn Santos and Remedio DLC San Nicolas brought home a Foremost gift pack and a Coca-Cola cooler package, respectively.

Other winners such as Jerry Santomin, who won a Scoop Gift Certificate and Coca-Cola cooler package; Mike A. Reyes, winner of a Foremost gift pack and a movie package; and Rehana A. Kader, who unwrapped a Scoops gift certificate and a Subway loaded cash card, are twice as lucky for winning two prize certificates.

Dozens of other prize certificates are waiting to be found inside select 12-can Fridge Packs. Valuable prizes include Joeten Shopping Sprees, smartphones from IT&E, gas certificates, brunch and water park packages from Saipan World Resort, brunch certificates from Aqua

Resort Club and Pacific Islands Club, movie packages, and a host of other holiday gifts from Coca-Cola, Subway, Foremost, and Scoops. Promo ends Jan. 20, 2012.

Glen D. Hunter, group business manager, Coca-Cola Beverage Company (Micronesia), Inc. is gratified by the opportunity for Coca-Cola to spread good cheer, especially during the holidays.

"It's been a Coca-Cola tradition to bring happiness wherever people gather and share good times and their favorite drink. The holidays always put people in a festive mood and we're happy that our 12-can Fridge Pack promo, 'Unwrap Holiday Cheer' has brought smiles and valuable prizes to the winners," Hunter said.

Coca-Cola is the world's largest beverage company. **(PR)**



Coca-Cola brings holiday cheer with exciting prizes to, clockwise from left, Antonio R. Cabrera, Davilyn Santos, Eunhee Chung, Jerry Santomin, Nelly Dela Rosa, Perfecto Aman, and Zeny Baridano.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Tinian Start Smart Seminar



Tinian Junior Senior High School students register for the Northern Marianas College's 2011 Tinian Start Smart Seminar at the Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino. The Start Smart Seminar was made possible with funds from the College Access Challenge Grant Program.

NMC



Northern Marianas College-College Access Challenge Grant outreach coordinator Eileen Babauta takes questions from juniors about the steps necessary to prepare for college during the breakout session of the seminar.

NMC



Lucy Blanco-Maratita, Board of Education member, left, takes a question about college life from an enthusiastic student during the "I'm Graduating, Now What?" segment of the event.

NMC



Tinian Junior Senior High School graduate Tracy Sanchez speaks to her peers about her experiences at the Northern Marianas College during the "Starting Smart at NMC" portion of the seminar.

NMC

A group of educators, government officials, and other community leaders are featured on stage before proceeding to different student tables to address questions during the "I'm Graduating, Now What?" segment of the event.

NMC



SROTC cadet Joshua Omengkar, second from right, and an NMC staff member assist students in filling out admission application forms during the breakout session of the seminar.

NMC



Parents of students are shown here during the Parent Night at the Tinian Junior Senior High School library. Scheduled after the Start Smart Seminar, the event served as an information session about the benefits of attending NMC.

NMC



Tinian Junior Senior High School students get NMC drawstring bags as part of the Start Smart Seminar.

NMC

Business

Cutting the deficit harder than just talking about it

By ANDREW TAYLOR
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON (AP)—The coming year-end spending spree after so much debate over budget deficits shows just how hard it is to stem the government's flow of red ink.

Lawmakers are poised to spend \$120 billion or so to renew a Social Security tax cut that averaged just under \$1,000 per household this year. They're ready to commit up to \$50 billion more to continue unemployment benefits to people out of work for more than half a year.

And doctors have no reason to doubt they won't be rescued, again, from steep cuts in their Medicare payments. Combine that with the tax cuts and jobless benefits, and Congress could add almost \$200 billion to the federal ledger this month.

That's why it's excruciatingly difficult to cut the deficit, even

when the House is dominated by tea party forces.

The year-end spree follows the failure of three high-profile efforts at big deficit deals: talks led by Vice President Joe Biden; efforts by President Barack Obama and House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio, to strike a "grand bargain"; and the ignominious cratering of a special deficit supercommittee before Thanksgiving.

Each disintegrated in great measure over the question of taxes. But their failures also illustrate the tremendous difficulty in getting anyone to actually cut spending.

The singular success in attacking the deficit this year came after a protracted battle this summer over whether to let the government continue borrowing. That fight finally produced a promise of more than \$2 trillion in cuts over the coming decade.

Even with those savings,

new government borrowing would be on track to total four or five times that amount over the same period.

The debt-deficit deal contained virtually no specific cuts to any program. Instead, it would reap \$900 billion over 10 years by capping the annual day-to-day operating budgets of Cabinet agencies below inflation.

The deal also set up the bipartisan supercommittee and told it to produce a plan that would cut \$1.2 trillion more from future deficits. If the panel failed, as it did, the alternative was automatic spending cuts of a like amount to domestic and military programs.

The budget caps are indeed tough, but they're also easy to support because most of the pain comes in the future. Likewise, the across-the-board cuts, which start in January 2013, won't cause any immediate hardship.

Unemployment drops to lowest since '09

WASHINGTON (AP)—The unemployment rate, which has refused to budge from the 9 percent neighborhood for two and a half frustrating years, fell sharply in November, driven in part by small businesses that finally see reason to hope and hire.

Economists say there is a long way to go, but they liked what they saw.

The rate fell to 8.6 percent, the lowest since March 2009, two months after President Barack Obama took office. Unemployment passed 9 percent that spring and had stayed there or higher for all but two months since then.

The country added 120,000 jobs in November, the Labor Department said Friday. Private employers added 140,000 jobs, while governments cut 20,000.

The economy has generated 100,000 or more jobs

five months in a row—the first time that has happened since April 2006, well before the Great Recession.

"Something good is stirring in the U.S. economy," Ian Shepherdson, an economist at High Frequency Economics, said in a note to clients.

The stock market rallied at the opening bell, after the report came out, but finished flat for the day. It was still up 787 points for the week. The only bigger point gain in a week was in October 2008, when stocks lurched higher and lower during the financial crisis.

The report showed that September and October were stronger months for the job market than first estimated. For four months in a row, the government has revised job growth figures higher for previous months.

September was revised up

by 52,000 jobs, for a gain of 210,000. October was revised up by 20,000, for a gain of 100,000.

Unemployment peaked at 10.1 percent in October 2009, four months after the Great Recession ended. It dipped to 8.9 percent last February and 8.8 percent last March but otherwise was at or above 9 percent.

The rate fell not just because people found jobs. About 300,000 people simply gave up looking for work, and were no longer counted as unemployed. People routinely enter and leave the work force, though 300,000 is more than usual.

Obama, who faces a re-election vote in less than a year and a presidential campaign that will turn on the economy, seized on the decline to argue for expanding a cut in the tax that workers pay toward Social Security.

Nation

Cain suspends campaign

By SHANNON McCAFFREY
ASSOCIATED PRESS

ATLANTA (AP)—A defiant Herman Cain suspended his faltering bid for the Republican presidential nomination Saturday amid a drumbeat of sexual misconduct allegations against him, throwing his staunchly conservative supporters up for grabs with just one month to go before the lead-off caucuses in Iowa.

Cain condemned the accusations as "false and unproven" but said they had been hurtful to his family, particularly his wife, Gloria, and were drowning out his ability to deliver his message. His wife stood behind him on the stage, smiling and waving as the crowd chanted her name.

"So as of today, with a lot of prayer and soul-searching, I am suspending my presidential campaign because of the continued distractions and the continued hurt caused on me and my family," a tired-looking Cain told about 400 supporters.

Cain's announcement came five days after an Atlanta-area woman, Ginger White, claimed she and Cain had an affair for more than a decade, a claim that followed several allegations of sexual harassment against the Georgia businessman.

"Now, I have made many mistakes in life. Everybody has. I've made mistakes professionally, personally, as a candidate, in terms of how I run my campaign. And I take responsibility for the mistakes I've made, and I have been the very first to own up to any mistakes I've made," he said.

But Cain intoned: "I am at peace with my God. I am at peace with my wife. And she is at peace with me."



AP
Republican presidential candidate Herman Cain announces he is suspending his campaign as his wife Gloria, left, looks on Saturday, Dec. 3, 2011, in Atlanta.

Romney, Gingrich proceed carefully in GOP showdown

By CHARLES BABINGTON and BETH FOUHY
ASSOCIATED PRESS

MANCHESTER, N.H. (AP)—The once-bursting 2012 Republican presidential field is narrowing to a two-man race, and GOP voters have one month before casting the first votes to winnow it to one. Barring a dramatic new turn, their chief options will be the steady but often bland demeanor of Mitt Romney and the idea-a-minute bombast of Newt Gingrich.

Herman Cain's suspension of his campaign Saturday, and Texas Gov. Rick Perry's continued struggles to regain traction, have focused the party's attention on Romney, the former Massachusetts governor, and Gingrich, the former House speaker. They offer striking contrasts in personality, government experience and campaign organization.

Romney has maintained a political infrastructure since his 2008 presidential bid, especially in New Hampshire. Gingrich, whose campaign nearly collapsed several months ago, is relying much more heavily on his televised debate performances and the good will he built up with conservatives as a congressional leader in the 1980s and 1990s.

Gingrich's efforts appear to be paying off in Iowa, which holds first in the nation caucuses January 3.

A Des Moines Register poll released late Saturday found Gingrich leading the GOP field with 25 percent support among likely caucus goers. Texas Rep. Ron Paul had 18 percent support and Romney, who began campaigning in Iowa in earnest only recently, had 16 percent.

Gingrich's and Romney's political philosophies and differences are a bit harder to tease out. Both men have changed their positions on issues such as climate change. And Gingrich, in particular, is known to veer into unusual territories, such as child labor practices.

Accuser's lawyers: Sandusky account 'was not convincing'

NEW YORK (AP)—Former Penn State defensive coordinator Jerry Sandusky maintains he never sexually abused children and portrays himself in a New York Times interview as a father-like figure to the kids in his life.

The Times reported Saturday that Sandusky also insisted he never spoke with Joe Paterno about any allegations of misconduct.

"They've taken everything that I ever did for any young person and twisted it to say that my motives were sexual or whatever," Sandusky said. "I had kid after kid after kid who might say I was a father figure. And they just twisted that all."

Sandusky has been charged with 40 counts of molesting eight boys over 15 years and is free on bail while awaiting a preliminary hearing Dec. 13. A grand jury investigating Sandusky said in a report that some of the assaults occurred in the Penn State football showers, including a 2002 allegation in which a graduate assistant testified he saw Sandusky sodomizing a young boy.

University trustees fired Paterno—major college football's winningest coach—on Nov. 9, four days after charges were filed against Sandusky, amid mounting criticism that school leaders should have

done more when allegations came to their attention.

During a lengthy interview with The Times at his lawyer's home, Sandusky painted a picture of chaotic but friendly scenes involving children he described as extended family at his State College, Pa., home. There were sleepovers, wrestling matches, and children playing with dogs at the house after football games.

The descriptions sharply contrast with the shocking allegations involving children outlined in the grand jury report, including oral and anal sex. One accusation, from 2000, describes a janitor walking into the assistant coaches' shower room and seeing Sandusky holding a boy "up against the wall and licking on him."



AP
Sharri Pegg fills out a registration form during a job fair Friday, Dec. 2, 2011, in, Portland, Ore.

Asia

2.6M Afghans at risk of hunger



In this Thursday, Nov. 24, 2011 photo, an Afghan man, left, receives a sack containing humanitarian aid donated by International Organization for Migration (IOM) for drought-hit families in Mazar-e-Sharif, Balkh province, north of Kabul, Afghanistan.

MAZAR-E-SHARIF, Afghanistan (AP)—Zara, an Afghan mother of seven, doesn't know what to tell her children when they ask about dinner.

"I simply tell them that we must wait until their father gets home to see if he's going to bring anything," she said, speaking from under a dusty blue burqa covering her from head to toe.

Zara, who uses just one name, is one of an estimated 2.6 million Afghans facing food shortages after one of the worst droughts to strike northern Afghanistan in a decade, according to Afghan officials and aid agencies. Already living in poverty in a country at war, many have been left destitute by the

drought, which has affected 14 of Afghanistan's 34 provinces—all in the north.

Wells have dried up. Hundreds of children have been treated for malnutrition. Families are selling their animals at below-market prices. People are moving to cities to try to find food, water, work and, in some cases, a refuge from the fighting.

The Afghan government and aid agencies are racing to help them before snow blocks access to remote areas.

Rahmatullah Zahid, disaster coordinator in Balkh province, which has been hard-hit by the drought, said he is not worried yet about people starving to death, but he wonders how

people will survive the winter, especially in remote areas.

"If the weather gets very, very cold in the remote areas and if the aid doesn't come, those families will be in danger of starvation," he said.

Beyond the relief effort, aid officials are trying to figure out how to end a vicious cycle of drought, drought relief and drought again in an area of the country that has suffered water and food shortages in eight of the past 11 years. Instead of trying to cultivate chronically dry land, perhaps farmers could grow almonds or grapes, which require less water than wheat, or industry could be lured to the area to extract its prevalent gas and oil.

Philippine militants bomb bridge in south

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine police say al-Qaida-linked militants set off a bomb on a bridge in a restive southern province and succeeded in their second attempt to stop military and other vehicles from using it.

Chief Inspector Amil Baanan of the Sulu provincial police says

no one was hurt in Saturday's predawn blast by Abu Sayyaf militants on the bridge in Patikul township. But the bridge is now impassable to all vehicles.

Baanan says Abu Sayyaf militants also damaged the bridge with a bomb in October.

Regional military spokesman

Lt. Col. Randolph Cabangbang says the militants regard roads and bridges as "avenues to infiltrate their safe havens."

The Abu Sayyaf is on the U.S. list of terrorist organizations. American special forces are helping train and arm Filipino soldiers fighting the group.

Pakistani model's nude photo causes fury

ISLAMABAD (AP)—A Pakistani actress who posed in the nude for an Indian magazine with the initials of Pakistan's feared and powerful intelligence agency on her arm has triggered fury across this conservative nation.

Veena Malik's photo on the website of FHM India, in advance of its publication in the magazine's December issue, has been lighting up social network websites since earlier this week.

Many here anticipate a backlash, as nationalists and Islamists regularly stage rallies against anything they deem an insult to Islam or to the national honor. India and Pakistan have fought three wars, and

the Inter-Services Intelligence agency or ISI has been accused of sponsoring terrorist attacks inside India.

Malik has broken Pakistani religious and national taboos in the past. She is a target for conservative ire and a heroine to some Pakistani liberals.

Conservative cleric Maulana Abdul Qawi declared on Aaj TV on Saturday that her latest venture into controversy was a "shame for all Muslims."

In an interview with Pakistani Geo television broadcast Saturday, however, Malik said the nude photo was published in violation of her agreement with FHM India and she was considering legal action

against the magazine.

Malik acknowledged having been photographed for a "bold but not nude shot." She said the editor of the magazine had promised that he would cover most of the photo with the ISI initials.

The photo was intended to poke fun at the Indian fear of Pakistani spies, she said, adding "whatever happens (in India), people say ISI is behind that."

Magazine editor Kabeer Sharma said Malik had given full consent for the shoot and the picture.

"We have all the record(s)," he told the Pakistani television station. "Veena was very excited about that ISI idea."

World

With Putin planning to stay, many Russians wanting out

MOSCOW (AP)—Natalia Lepleiskaya is just the sort of person today's Russia needs—a successful young IT manager who does charity work in her free time.

But frustrated by what she describes as the corruption and stagnation around her, she and her husband are packing their bags to start a new life in Canada.

"I don't see how I can change things ... and I don't want to waste my youth on it," said the 29-year-old, who moved to Moscow from a provincial city several years ago and rose to a senior position at a top technological company.

As Vladimir Putin's party prepares to dominate week-end parliamentary elections in a prelude to his planned return to the presidency in spring, an increasing number of Russians are contemplating leaving their homeland in search of a brighter future abroad. A March presidential election victory for Putin—all but taken for granted—raises the prospect of his being in the top job for 12 years.

Disenchantment with life in Russia was growing even before Prime Minister Putin and President Dmitry Medvedev agreed in September to swap jobs,

In a May poll by the respected Levada Center, 22 percent of respondents said they

wanted to move abroad for good, compared to 13 percent in April 2009. The poll among 1,600 Russian adults across the country had a margin of error of 3.4 percentage points.

Emigration statistics are hard to come by because few of those who leave for lengthy periods renounce Russian citizenship, while getting foreign residency may take years.

But demographer Mikhail Denisenko at the Higher School of Economics in Moscow estimates that at least a half million Russians moved abroad in 2002-2009 and more are on the way in what he describes as the fifth wave of emigration since the beginning of the 20th century.

"The level of frustration is higher ... it's a feeling of discomfort, an aversion to life in Russia," said Lev Gudkov, the head of the Levada Center.

"The prospect of another 12 years of stagnation or even a worsening of the situation is frightening them and they are beginning to think about moving to a different country or at least providing a future for their children" abroad.

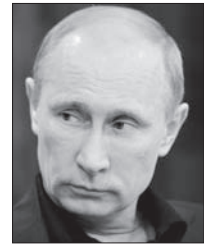
Numerous recent websites and blogs offer advice on how to emigrate. One of them, "Time to Shove Off," offers commentaries and videos exposing alleged crime and cor-

ruption among top Russian officials. "Yet another governor buys himself yet another Mercedes for 7 million rubles (\$233,000 or €175,000)," reads one posting. "Corruption as a lifestyle," a headline says.

"The news that Putin is staying has spoiled people's mood and this talk (of emigration) started resonating more," said Anton Nossik, a popular blogger and Internet expert, who holds seminars on emigration.

The democratic reforms ushered in by the 1991 Soviet collapse generated hope that Russia could finally become a free and progressive nation. But Putin's 11 years in power, first as president and now as prime minister, have left many people disillusioned and gloomy about the future.

While an expanding economy has boosted living standards for many, corruption has become systemic and political competition has virtually disappeared. On a more day-to-day level, many Russians complain that education and health care continue to lag far behind. The draft-based army is plagued by vicious hazing, leaving many parents fearful for their sons. Few have faith that they can count on either the police or the courts to protect them or their property.



Putin

WORLD BRIEFS

Brazil: 33 dead in truck-bus crash

SAO PAULO (AP)—Brazilian authorities say a tractor-trailer has slammed into a bus carrying sugarcane cutters, killing at least 33 people and injuring 13 others. A police spokesman says the truck driver lost control as he was rounding a corner and heading down a hill early Saturday near a town called Miracles in the northeastern state of Bahia. The truck was carrying a load of construction materials, which also slammed into the bus. The driver of the truck survived and is in a local hospital. Some of the others injured are in grave condition. The police official spoke on condition of anonymity, saying he was not authorized to provide details. He says an investigation is ongoing.

25 die in Syria, as defectors battle regime forces

BEIRUT (AP)—Violence sweeping across Syria killed 25 people on Saturday, most of them in a battle between troops

and a growing force of army defectors who have joined the movement to oust the autocratic president, activists said. The Arab League, meanwhile, agreed on the details of economic and diplomatic sanctions against the regime. The revolt against Bashar Assad's rule began with peaceful protests in mid-March, triggering a brutal crackdown. The unrest has steadily become bloodier as defectors and some civilians take up arms, prompting the United Nations' human rights chief to refer to it this week as a civil war and urge the international community to protect Syrian civilians. Sanctions by the United States, the European Union, Turkey and the 22-member Arab League have so far failed to blunt the turmoil, but are leaving Assad's regime increasingly isolated. Arab League ministers meeting in the Gulf nation of Qatar on Saturday to finalize the bloc's penalties agreed on a list of 19 Syrian officials subject to a travel ban.

Iraq PM confident in post-US future

BAGHDAD (AP)—Weeks before the U.S. pullout, Iraq's prime minister confidently predicted Saturday that his country will achieve stability and remain independent of its giant neighbor Iran even without an American troop presence. Nouri al-Maliki also warned of civil war in Iran's ally Syria if Bashar Assad falls—a view that puts him closer to Tehran's position and at odds with Washington. The foreign policy pronouncement indicates that Iraq is emerging from the shadows of U.S. influence in a way unforeseen when U.S.-led forces invaded eight years ago to topple Saddam Hussein. "The situation in Syria is dangerous," al-Maliki told The Associated Press during an interview at his office in a former Saddam-era palace in Baghdad's Green Zone. "Things should be dealt with appropriately so that the spring in Syria does not turn into a winter."

Focus

By CHRIS ADAMS
McCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS

As Iraq and Afghan wars end, costs mount on pace to exceed Vietnam

WASHINGTON—The wars in Iraq and Afghanistan may be winding down, but the long-term costs of caring for those wounded in battle is on path to rival the costs of the Vietnam War.

While Vietnam extracted a far higher death toll—58,000 compared with 6,300 so far in the war on terror—the number of documented disabilities from recent veterans is approaching the size of that earlier conflict, according to a McClatchy Newspapers analysis of Department of Veterans Affairs data.

The data, obtained under the Freedom of Information Act and detailing all disability payments to veterans of all wars, show that veterans leaving the military in recent years are filing for and receiving compensation for more injuries than did their fathers and grandfathers.

At the same time, McClatchy found, the VA is losing ground in efforts to provide fast, efficient and accurate disability decisions. And the agency has yet to get control of a problem that has vexed it for years: The wide variation in disability payments by state and region, even for veterans with the same ailments.

For soldiers now coming home from Iraq and Afghanistan, this ongoing variation in an already-clogged disability system means the size of monthly compensation checks might be a quirk of geography.

Given the nature of today's disabilities, it's difficult to calculate how much it all might ultimately cost. "We're in somewhat uncharted waters," said Linda Bilmes, a Harvard University professor who has conducted an exhaustive study on the long-term costs of the wars.

Her most recent estimates, from 2010, indicate that providing disability payments to Iraq and Afghanistan war veterans could range from \$355 billion to \$534 billion over the next 40 years; on top of that, costs to the VA's medical system could range from \$201 billion to \$348 billion to treat veterans of the current wars.

For the VA system, that means costs will grow for years to come—even as the country is entering a period of belt-tightening that could reduce the size of government and put a damper on the agency's ability to find the money to pay these expenses.

The fatalities in war are only a small part of its ultimate human cost. Soldiers back from the war in Afghanistan, which began in 2001, or the war in Iraq, which began in 2003, carry with them a lifetime of physical and mental reminders.

According to VA and Department of Defense information compiled by the advocacy group Veterans for Common

Sense, 2.2 million service members have deployed to one of the wars since Sept. 11, 2001; 942,000 have deployed two or more times.

Of those, 6,300 service members have died, and 46,000 have suffered non-fatal wounds in action. But more than 600,000 veterans have filed for VA disability benefits, and more than 700,000 have been treated in the VA's medical system.

"Right now, VA is getting about 10,000 new Iraq and Afghanistan claims and patients per month," said Paul Sullivan, executive director of the National Organization of Veterans' Advocates, which helps veterans file their disability claims. "The numbers are devastating."

Compensating veterans for those injuries is the duty of the VA. The department has long been guided by the words of President Abraham Lincoln, who vowed "to care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow and his orphan."

The VA's ability, or willingness, to do so has long been questioned by veterans who felt the agency tangled them in

red tape. Those complaints are still aired, but outside observers say the VA has made changes in recent years to improve both its medical and disability systems.

But the department is fighting a huge tide of new veterans back from Iraq and Afghanistan. With them comes a range of mental and physical ailments that generally worsen as a veteran ages.

McClatchy analyzed the VA's compensation database, which includes 3.2 million records documenting each veteran and his or her mental or physical disabilities; information that could identify a specific veteran was blacked out.

The VA doesn't actually specify whether somebody was in Iraq or Afghanistan, instead lumping all veterans from the first Iraq war in 1990 into a "Gulf War" category. McClatchy zeroed in on veterans who left active duty in 2003 or later, an approximate cohort of Iraq and Afghanistan veterans.

Among the findings:

has gotten worse, and the percentage of claims with an error in them has worsened as well. In fiscal 2011, 16 percent of VA disability decisions contained an error, the VA's own review shows, far higher than the 2 percent error rate the VA is aiming for.

The VA said that it is working to do better and that it has hired 2,700 new workers. "We think

the Vietnam War, which ended nearly four decades ago, hasn't yet been reached.

"We expect to see the same kind of lag this time around," Bilmes said.

In addition to aging, the wars fought this time around have been different. Beyond that, there's been a cultural shift among veterans and the VA.

Veterans file disability claims with the VA if they've been injured during military service—whether in a combat zone or state-side. Based on the severity of the disability, the VA pays veterans compensation checks that range from \$127 to \$2,769 a month.

Veterans today are applying with greater frequency and greater urgency than in years past.

Part of that, Bilmes said, is the nature of these wars. In previous wars, a general seeing a brigade under stress might have pulled it back—putting the soldiers on kitchen duty for a while, she said. Now, those functions are being handled by contractors, eliminating that relief valve.

Beyond that, far more soldiers in this all-volunteer

II, but less than those in the Gulf War era. Veterans who have left military service since 2003 have an average of six disabilities on file, VA data show.

These recent veterans have a combined total of 3.5 million disabilities on file, compared with 3.9 million from Vietnam, McClatchy's analysis shows. While the annual cost of those Vietnam disabilities is higher, recent vets will see their monthly checks go up as they age.

As it deals with the rush of new veterans, the VA also is contending with an overwhelmed system that is getting slower and sloppier—despite years of promises and efforts to fix it.

The VA received a record 1.3 million disability claims in fiscal 2011. The time to decide those rose to an average of 188 days—far above the goal that no claim take longer than 125 days, and going in the wrong direction.

That should change, the VA's Murphy said. Workers hired in the past three years are now experienced enough to handle the complex claims coming in.

While some award decisions are relatively straightforward, McClatchy found that others—particularly those involving mental illnesses—are subject to wide variation among the VA's regional offices that decide claims.

The VA first confronted this problem in 2005, when news organizations reported that veterans' monthly checks varied widely depending on where they lived. The VA pledged to improve its training to ensure consistency among its 57 regional offices.

That wide variation still exists, McClatchy found—and particularly for post-traumatic stress disorder, one of the costliest disabilities of the war.

For recent veterans who are part of the Louisville, Ky., regional office, 67 percent have a high PTSD rating; 17 percent have the highest rating of 100.

For veterans who are part of the Sioux Falls, S.D., regional office, 42 percent have a high rating, and just 1 percent have the highest rating of 100.

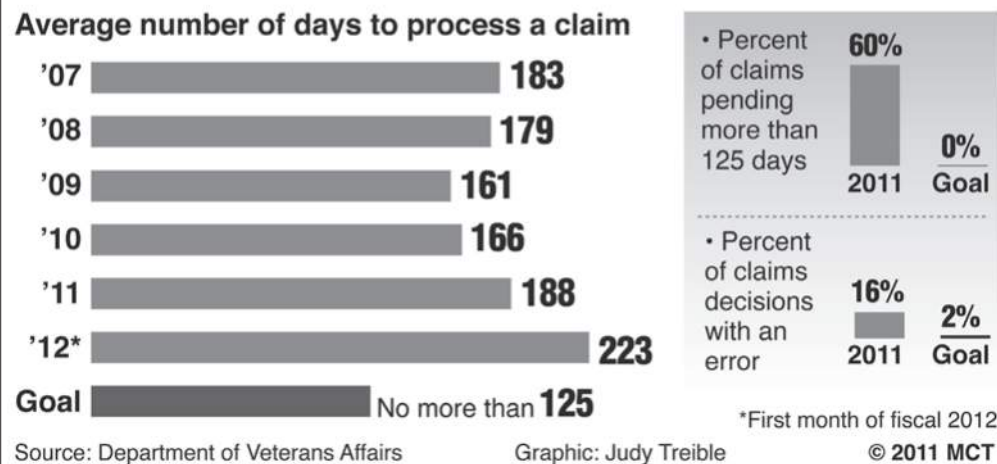
For "chronic adjustment disorder"—not as big a condition as PTSD but still involving 12,700 recent veterans—the spread was even more dramatic: 24 percent with a high rating in one office, just 4 percent in another.

The reasons for the variation are many, but much of it goes to training—or the lack of it—at regional offices, as well as differing attitudes toward some of the big-ticket disabilities such as PTSD.

Sullivan, from the veterans' advocacy group, said that the VA falters because of demands to "rush decisions, causing too many mistakes," a "lack of thorough training for thousands of new claims processors" and "overly complex and adversarial regulations," among other reasons.

VA losing ground

How the processing time for a disability claim by the Department of Veterans Affairs has changed since fiscal year 2007:



Disabilities, wars compared

Recent veterans have claimed more disabilities than vets from past wars.

	Total on VA disability rolls	Total number of disabilities	Average number of claimed disabilities
WWII	204,880	483,329	2.4
Korea	147,258	356,295	2.4
Vietnam	1,097,168	3,897,946	3.6
Peacetime	629,945	1,977,416	3.1
Gulf War era*	1,119,017	5,808,505	5.2
Gulf early 1990-2002	532,264	2,304,537	4.3
Gulf late 2003-2010	586,753	3,503,968	6.0

*The VA considers "Gulf War" service beginning with the first Gulf War in 1990 and with no break outs for Afghanistan or Iraq; McClatchy counted veterans with Gulf War service who left active duty in 2003 or later as Gulf late

Source: McClatchy analysis of Veterans Affairs data Graphic: Judy Treible © 2011 MCT

■ Recent veterans are filing claims at a far higher rate than veterans from previous wars or generations. That could make the eventual payout for the VA far higher than it has been for previous wars.

■ The VA's disability payments are still wildly uneven, despite years of attempts to improve consistency to the regional offices that process veterans' claims. It means, for example, that a veteran who lives in Kentucky is likely to have a higher disability payment than one who lives in South Dakota, often for the same ailment.

■ The speed at which the VA processes disability applications

we've got the problem identified and we think we have the right disciplines in place," said Thomas Murphy, who directs the VA's compensation program.

The true cost of war can't be known for years and decades after the last bullet has been fired and the final base torn down. A disability tied to military service might take years to emerge and or might steadily worsen after it does.

Bilmes, the Harvard professor who co-wrote "The Three Trillion Dollar War" with Nobel laureate Joseph Stiglitz, said the peak for paying out claims from World War II didn't come until the 1980s. The peak for

military have been back for two, three, four or five tours, and the long-term impact on hearing and on traumatic brain injuries caused by improvised explosive devices will be felt for years.

Other factors are at play: Better war zone medical treatment means more injured soldiers come home alive. Veterans are more willing to claim their disabilities than were vets of previous generations, and the VA is more accommodating than it once was.

According to VA data, the average Vietnam veteran in the VA system has 3.5 documented disabilities—more than those from the Korean War or World War

Health & Fitness

Apple juice can pose a health risk—from calories

By **MARILYNN MARCHIONE**
AP CHIEF MEDICAL WRITER

It's true—apple juice can pose a risk to your health. But not necessarily from the trace amounts of arsenic that people are arguing about.

Despite the government's consideration of new limits on arsenic, nutrition experts say apple juice's real danger is to waistlines and children's teeth. Apple juice has few natural nutrients, lots of calories and, in some cases, more sugar than soda has. It trains a child to like very sweet things, displaces better beverages and foods, and adds to the obesity problem, its critics say.

"It's like sugar water," said Judith Stern, a nutrition professor at the University of California, Davis, who has consulted for candy makers as well as for Weight Watchers. "I won't let my 3-year-old grandson drink apple juice."

Many juices are fortified with vitamins, so they're not just empty calories. But that doesn't appease some nutritionists.

"If it wasn't healthy in the first place, adding vitamins doesn't make it into a health food," and if it causes weight gain, it's not a healthy choice, said Karen Ansel, a registered dietitian in New York and spokeswoman for the American Dietetic Association.

The American Academy of Pediatrics says juice can be part of a healthy diet, but its policy is blunt: "Fruit juice offers no nutritional benefit for infants younger than 6 months" and no benefits over whole fruit for older kids.

Kids under 12 consume 28 percent of all juice and juice drinks, according to the academy. Nationwide, apple juice is second only to orange juice in popularity. Americans slurp 267 ounces of apple juice on average each year, according to the Food Institute's Almanac of Juice Products and the Juice Products Association, a trade group. Lots more is consumed as an ingredient in juice drinks and various foods.

Only 17 percent of the apple juice sold in the U.S. is produced here. The rest comes from other countries, mostly China, Argentina, Chile and Brazil, the association says.

Television's Dr. Mehmet Oz made that a key point a few months ago when he raised an alarm—some say a false alarm—over arsenic in apple juice, based on tests his show commissioned by a private lab. The Food and Drug Administration said that its own tests disagreed and that apple juice is safe.

However, on Wednesday, after Consumer Reports did its own tests on several juice brands and called along with



AP
In this Sept. 15, 2011 photo, an apple and a pitcher of apple juice are posed together in Moreland Hills, Ohio.

other consumer groups for stricter standards, the FDA said it will examine whether its restrictions on the amount of arsenic allowed in apple juice are stringent enough.

Some forms of arsenic, such as the type found in pesticides, can be toxic and may pose a cancer risk if consumed at high levels or over a long period.

All juice sold in the United States must be safe and meet U.S. standards, said Pat Faison, technical director for the juice association. As for making good nutrition choices, "a lot of the information that people need about fruit juices is on the label," she said.

So what's on those labels? Carbohydrates, mostly sugars, in a much higher concen-

tration than in milk. Juice has a small amount of protein and minerals and lacks the fiber in whole fruit, the pediatrics academy notes.

Drinking juice delivers a lot of calories quickly so you don't realize how much

you've consumed, whereas you would have to eat a lot of apples to get the same amount, and "you would feel much, much more full from the apples," Ansel said.

"Whole fruits are much better for you," said Dr. Frank Greer, a University of Wisconsin, Madison, professor and former head of the pediatrics academy's nutrition committee.

He noted that the WIC program—the U.S. Department of Agriculture's nutrition program for Women, Infants and Children—revised its rules in 2005 to replace juice with baby food fruits and vegetables for children over 6 months. More than half of all infants born in the U.S. are eligible for WIC, and the government "really cut back severely on the ability of mothers to get fruit juices" through the program, Greer said.

If you or your family drinks

juice, here is some advice from nutrition experts:

■ Choose a juice fortified with calcium and vitamin D-3.

■ Give children only pasteurized juice—that's the only type safe from germs that can cause serious disease.

■ Don't give juice before 6 months of age, and never put it in bottles or covered cups that allow babies and children to consume it throughout the day, which can cause tooth decay. For the same reason, don't give infants juice at bedtime.

■ Limit juice to 4 to 6 ounces per day for children ages 1 to 6, and 8 to 12 ounces for those ages 7 to 18.

■ Encourage kids to eat fruit.

■ Don't be swayed by healthy-sounding label claims. "No sugar added" doesn't mean it isn't full of naturally occurring sugar. And "cholesterol-free" is silly—only animal products contain cholesterol.

Study: Few kidney patients use home dialysis

By **DELTHIA RICKS**
NEWSDAY

NEW YORK—Fewer than 10 percent of kidney patients undergo dialysis at home even though the treatment costs less and may be more effective at prolonging life, a new investigation has found.

An estimated 382,000 people are receiving kidney dialysis nationwide, but only 35,000 are on one of the two forms of home-based dialysis, say doctors in a special American Journal of Kidney Diseases report.

Most patients choose to undergo dialysis in a center, either a freestanding facility or one connected with a medical center.

Home dialysis methods have existed for decades, doctors said, but have not been widely pursued or publicized. One is known as home hemodialysis; the other, peritoneal dialysis.

Home hemodialysis is performed almost identically to dialysis in a center. Peritoneal dialysis uses a solution that is self-infused into the abdomen that flushes out excess fluid and toxins. Both can be performed daily.

The report revealed three-quarters of newly diagnosed patients were unaware of those options.

"Home hemodialysis isn't new, it has been around since the 1970s, but it fell off the radar after dialysis centers wound up on just about every other corner," said Dr. Beth Piraino, one of the study's senior authors and president-elect of the National Kidney Foundation.

Undergoing dialysis in a center costs about \$70,000 a year, Piraino said Friday, but undergoing the procedure at home can shave \$20,000 or more off annual costs, she said.

Federal and private insurers, Piraino added, cover costs associated with home care.

In Hong Kong, Piraino said, all patients undergo home hemodialysis. Not only is life expectancy longer, she said, patients have fewer complications than their U.S. counterparts.

Piraino noted an increased risk of death—usually from heart attack or stroke—within the first three months of in-center dialysis, a risk not shared by those who undergo dialysis at home.

According to the National Kidney Foundation, people using short daily or nocturnal home hemodialysis live longer than those on medical facility dialysis, experience a better quality of life, have fewer and shorter hospital stays, and feel better both during and after dialysis.

More frequent dialysis better approximates the function of healthy kidneys, doctors say.

However, Piraino, a nephrologist at the University of Pittsburgh, emphasized that home treatment is not for everyone, nor is it perfect.

Patients must be aware of infection control, and peritoneal dialysis, she said, is perhaps best used as a "bridge" while awaiting transplant because it is not best used as a long-term therapy.

Deaths, Piraino added, inexplicably increase when patients use that method for years.

But home hemodialysis carries benefits, which she said have been long recognized. "I've known people on home hemodialysis who've lived for 30 years," Piraino said. "No one will live 30 years on peritoneal dialysis or in-center dialysis."

Personal Trainer

Surviving the holidays

Some ways to reduce the stress of the holidays and keep up a healthy, physically active lifestyle:

- 1 Take time for yourself every day instead of spending too much time with friends and family
- 2 Don't set unrealistic exercise goals; 30 minutes a day will keep you active even if you are used to spending an hour
- 3 Don't try to lose weight or keep up a restrictive diet; it's better to enjoy your favorite holiday foods in small portions
- 4 Ask a friend or family member to exercise with you
- 5 Create new, active traditions; instead of throwing a cocktail party, go snowshoeing or ice skating
- 6 Drink plenty of water; travel, alcohol and heated indoor air are dehydrating
- 7 Pause during meals; for example, eat dinner early and take a walk before dessert
- 8 Use alcohol and caffeine moderately; try a new herbal tea instead



Source:
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Council on
Exercise
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Paul Trap

Life & Style

Swift, Minaj get Billboard honor, talk Grammy nods

NEW YORK (AP)—Taylor Swift doesn't think the Recording Academy is mean. Though she won the Grammy for album of the year in 2010, she's not sad her latest multiplatinum effort isn't up for the honor this time around.

"I got three nominations. I was just so excited," she said Friday, before she was honored as Billboard's "Woman of the Year."

Among the Swift achieve-

ments that led to her Billboard honor was the best-selling performance of her third album "Speak Now," which has sold more than 3.7 million copies and generated hits like "Mine" and "Mean."

There was some surprise when the critically acclaimed album wasn't among the overall best album nominees when the Grammy nominations were

revealed Wednesday, but Swift says she's excited by her nominations, which include best country album and two for "Mean," in which she answers her critics and challenges bullies.

"That song is so personal, and I'm so glad that the Grammys recognized it," she said on the red carpet ahead of the event.

Swift got a standing ovation as she accepted her honor. Swift

recalled reading Billboard as a teen, pouring over its pages and hoping one day to see her name in the trade magazine.

"I got here today and there were all these flashing camera bulbs ... I got to the table, and I saw the magazine on the chair and it had me on it," she said. "All the day-dreams I had as a little kid, I guess this is what it looked like."

One of the country singer's favorite artists, Nicki Minaj, was also honored at the event as Billboard's "Rising Star."

Like Swift, Minaj was rocking blonde bangs.

"This is my Taylor Swift look," Minaj joked.

But the rapper and singer got teary-eyed at the event when Minaj received her honor. She's

costarred on dozens of hit songs in the last two years, and her debut CD, "Pink Friday," has sold more than 1.6 million copies in the United States. Minaj is nomi-

inated for four Grammys, including best new artist, pitting her against the Band Perry, Bon Iver, Skrillex and J. Cole.

"I don't ever expect to win those kinds of things, but it's good to be recognized and it's good for girls to see that you can do

whatever kind of music that you want to do," Minaj said on the red carpet.

Minaj is also up for best rap album, where she'll face her mentor, Lil Wayne, as well as Kanye West, Jay-Z and Lupe Fiasco. She says she's diligent, and that lethargic people

annoy her.

"I always say hard work pays off. Don't be lazy. I am racist against lazy people. I wish they would not exist in this world," she said.

Minaj, known for her outrageous and colorful fashion style, says she's learning to "trust my first instinct." The 28-year-old says proof of that will show on her upcoming album, "Pink Friday: Roman Reloaded," due out on Valentine's Day.

"Things are happening so much easier for me now because I was over-thinking on the first album. I was trying to give people what I thought they needed, and what I needed my reputation to be," she said. "And now it's like, 'I don't care what you think. I'm going to do what I wanna do for my core fans and if you like it, you like it. If you don't, bye!'"



Swift

David Beckham visits abused kids in Manila

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Away from fans' prying eyes, David Beckham took time out from soccer to share his experiences and listen to Filipino children struggling to rebuild their broken lives.

"It's so important to have a dream," Beckham told the former street children Friday at a UNICEF-supported shelter in a suburb of Manila, the Philippine capital where he and his teammates from the Los Angeles Galaxy are playing an exhibition against the country's national team this weekend.

On the sidelines of the Galaxy's Manila trip, Beckham, who is also a UNICEF goodwill ambassador, visited the shelter for children who have been rescued from the streets. They shared tales of domestic abuse and crime—some fell victim to drugs or were abandoned by their parents.

Wearing a black UNICEF T-shirt, the 36-year-old former England captain listened intently in a private conversation with a group of five children and told them how he started playing when he was 7 years old and eventually achieving his dream of playing for Manchester United.

UNICEF asked that the names of the children and the shelter not be disclosed to protect their privacy.

Conan, a 17-year-old who was abandoned by his parents when he was 7, told Beckham

that he dreams of joining the Philippine team and later becoming a coach.

He played in the Street Children's Football World Cup last year in South Africa, where the Philippines beat South Africa 2-1.

The younger children were awe-struck while listening to one of the world's best known athletes.

One 12-year-old girl named Shaina said she wants to be a nurse to help the sick. She often held Beckham's hand as she and the other children guided him around the facility, unfazed by the tattoos that adorn his arms.

Beckham told the UNICEF staff it was incredible that the children had gone through "so much in such a short space of time in their young lives" and learned responsibility and respect.

He said he was lucky to have had the support of both his parents and it was "so sad to see so many children that don't have that support, don't have that love."

He later listened to JM, a former drug user who turned 18 on Friday, sing a rap song in the Filipino language on how drugs ruin lives. After a staff translated the song for Beckham, he gave him a double thumbs up, saying, "You're good!"

The shelter that houses 136 kids has a small soccer field surrounded by separate cottages for boys and girls, a school, a basketball court and a training facility where children learn to

sew clothes and cut hair.

Beckham posed with the children for a picture wearing a blue graduation gown and cap made at the sewing room, where he also tried his hand at making a pillow case.

"What struck me the most about coming into the center was it was a real happy place, a real inspiring place," he told The Associated Press. "They are teaching kids unbelievable values. Every child I spoke to today—they all have dreams, they all have inspirations."

A father of four children, Beckham said it was "heart-breaking to think majority of these children haven't got parents, or haven't got parents to care for them and love them."

Beckham said that because of work, it's been difficult for him "to do some of the things I would like to do—going out into the field like I obviously have today."

"I think it is important to raise awareness to many issues around the world, many worries around the world," he said. "In my position, thankfully, I can create that kind of interest and awareness to things that are happening around the world."

A highlight of his visit was a brief practice followed by a short game in which he joined one half of the shelter's team.

The star sweated under the midday sun as he helped their shoeless goalkeeper. His side lost 1-0.

Potter attraction on way to Universal Hollywood

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Comcast Corp. is in the final stages of a deal to bring Harry Potter's magic to life in Hollywood.

The owner of Universal Studios will announce before year's end that it will build a version of The Wizarding World of Harry Potter at its Universal Studios Hollywood theme park. That's according to a person familiar with the matter who was not authorized to speak publicly about it.

The first Harry Potter attraction opened in Orlando, Florida, last June. Since then, attendance at Universal Orlando

has jumped by 40 percent to 50 percent, Comcast executive vice president Steve Burke said in September. He said the attraction caused "a gigantic sea change in the profitability."

A Universal spokeswoman declined to comment Thursday. The development was earlier reported by The Wall Street Journal.

Comcast, the cable TV giant that bought a majority stake in NBCUniversal in January in a \$13.5 billion deal, also bought out its 50 percent partner in the Universal Orlando theme park, The Blackstone Group, for \$1.03 billion in June.

Burke told analysts in September that the theme parks business was the "last thing on our list" when acquiring NBCUniversal, but the company is now "delighted" to own more of it.

In the nine months through September, its theme-park revenue rose 33 percent from a year ago to \$1.49 billion, while operating cash flow jumped 61 percent to \$644 million.

That makes it the company's second-most profitable division behind pay TV channels, accounting for just under a quarter of the operating cash flow overall.

Experts reclassify painting as real Rembrandt

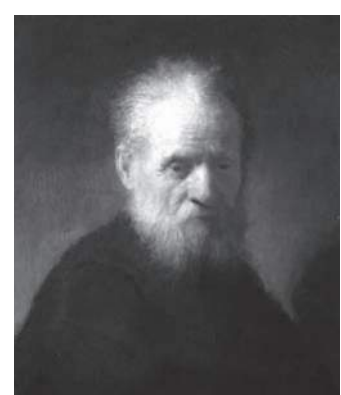
AMSTERDAM (AP)—Experts have reclassified a painting as a Rembrandt after years of attributing it to one of the Dutch master's students.

Ernst van de Wetering of the Rembrandt Research Project said Friday that X-ray analysis of "Bearded Old Man" has revealed outlines of a self-portrait of Rembrandt as a young man underneath.

He also cited stylistic analysis and circumstantial evidence in support of the conclusion that the painting—showing a man with unkempt white hair, lost in thought with just a hint of sadness—is by the Dutch master.

Van de Wetering dates the small (15 x 20 cm, 6 x 8 inch) but emotive painting to 1630, when Rembrandt van Rijn would have been 24 years old. Rembrandt's reputation as a portraitist was rapidly growing and he was preparing to leave Leiden for Amsterdam, which at that time was enjoying its golden age as a major naval power.

Van de Wetering said that the style and quality of the painting itself provide the strongest arguments for its authenticity, but the existence of the underlying



AP

In this Friday, Dec. 2, 2011 photo provided by the Rembrandt House Museum in Amsterdam, the 1630 painting "Old Man with Beard" by Rembrandt is seen.

portrait was important too.

"The light is typically Rembrandt in that it is so totally convincing: you perceive it as if you are looking at reality and not at a painting," he said.

"That was one of Rembrandt's great, great interests and also where he was so extraordinarily gifted, at portraying light so convincingly."

Classifying the painting as an authentic Rembrandt fills a hole in his historical record—a 1633 painting exists with an inscription that says it is a copy

of "Bearded Old Man" by the Dutch master.

"Bearded Old Man" belongs to an unidentified private collector. It will go on display May-July of next year at the Rembrandt House Museum in Amsterdam, where the finding was announced Friday.

Van de Wetering collaborated with restorer Martin Bijl and technology professors Joris Dik of the Delft University of Technology and Koen Janssens of the University of Antwerp, among others in the reclassification.

Researchers used at least five different kinds of X-ray scans to analyze the chemical makeup of pigments in the painting and probe its hidden layers of paint. The scans were done at the Brookhaven National Laboratory in New York and ESRF in Grenoble, France.

Rembrandt produced hundreds of paintings, etchings and drawings, but new finds are extremely rare. However, four works formerly attributed to his students—a talented group in their own right—have been reclassified as by Rembrandt since 2008, often with the help of new technology.



AP

In this photo released by UNICEF in Manila, British soccer player of the Los Angeles Galaxy and UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador David Beckham meets former Filipino street children during his visit to a UNICEF-supported government center for children rescued from the streets Friday, Dec. 2, 2011 in a suburb of Manila in the Philippines.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS**Jimmy Fallon to release new comedy album**

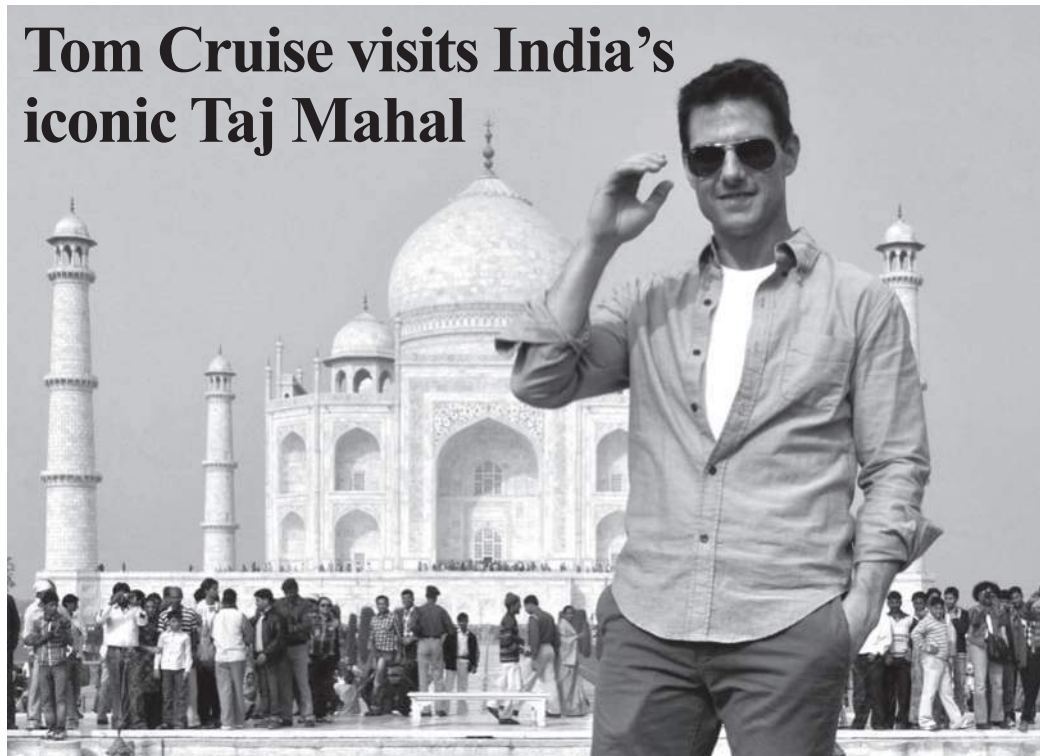
NEW YORK (AP)—“Late Night” host Jimmy Fallon is known for performing with his famous musical guests, including Justin Timberlake, Bruce Springsteen and Blake Shelton, so it seems only natural the comedian and music enthusiast would release a new album. Fans won’t have to wait long. His second record, not yet titled, is scheduled for release next summer on Warner Music Nashville. It will feature parodies and music that have become instant classics on NBC’s “Late Night With Jimmy Fallon.” His first album, “The Bathroom Wall,” was released in 2002. Despite singing live with some of the biggest names in music on his show, Fallon said he still feels the pressure of getting his new album completed. “Mostly, it means I should probably start writing some songs,” he said in a statement Friday.

Jude Law, Kevin Spacey vie for Whatsonstage awards

LONDON (AP)—There’s a Hollywood cast for Britain’s Whatsonstage theater awards, with James Earl Jones, Jude Law and Kevin Spacey competing for best actor in a play. Jones is nominated for “Driving Miss Daisy,” Law for “Anna Christie” and Spacey for “Richard III,” alongside Benedict Cumberbatch for “Frankenstein,” James Corden for “One Man, Two Guvnors” and David Tennant for “Much Ado About Nothing.” The prizes, run by theater website whatonstage.com, are decided by public vote. Best actress contenders announced Friday include Vanessa Redgrave for “Driving Miss Daisy” and Kristin Scott Thomas for “Betrayal.” In the musical categories, there are multiple nominations for the movie-inspired romance “Ghost” and Roald Dahl-based “Matilda.” Winners will be announced Feb. 19.

Michael Jackson doctor files appeals notice in LA

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The doctor sentenced to four years behind bars for causing Michael Jackson’s death has filed a notice that he intends to appeal the conviction. Conrad Murray signed a one-page document that was filed in Los Angeles on Friday seeking all records and transcripts from the case. The filing does not indicate the basis on which Murray will argue to overturn his conviction or sentence. The 58-year-old was sentenced Tuesday to four years in jail for his involuntary manslaughter conviction, but the term will be automatically cut in half. Murray’s challenge will be heard by a state appeals court in Los Angeles, assuming he files an opening brief at a later date. Superior Court Judge Michael Pastor blasted Murray’s conduct on Tuesday, calling him a disgrace to the medical profession.

Tom Cruise visits India’s iconic Taj Mahal

Hollywood star Tom Cruise poses in front of the landmark Taj Mahal in Agra, India, Saturday, Dec. 3, 2011. AP

NEW DELHI (AP)—Hollywood star Tom Cruise says his visit to India this week follows a lifelong desire to see the country.

He said while touring the iconic, white-marble Taj Mahal mausoleum in Agra that he is “very excited” about being

in the country for a fan screening of his latest action-thriller, “Mission Impossible: Ghost Protocol,” days ahead of its world premiere on Wednesday.

Cruise joins Bollywood star Anil Kapoor for the red-carpet screening Sunday in Mumbai.

The film sees Cruise reprise his role as secret agent Ethan Hunt, while Kapoor plays an Indian business tycoon.

Cruise told Press Trust of India on Saturday, “I wanted to come to India my whole life, so I am very excited.”

Amy Winehouse Foundation makes first donations

LONDON (AP)—Amy Winehouse’s father says meeting the children being helped by the foundation set up in his late daughter’s name has been heart-breaking—and heartwarming.

The singer’s parents, Mitch and Janis Winehouse, visited Little Havens Children’s Hospice east of London on Wednesday to meet children benefiting from a 10,000-pound (\$15,600) donation.

There, Mitch Winehouse wiped away tears as he described meeting 6-year old Calum Miller and his family.

“He’s severely brain damaged from birth, lovely, lovely kid,” explained Winehouse, saying he was especially moved by the relationship between the boy and his 8-year-old brother Connor.

“It was heartbreaking actually . . . I’m starting to well up now, but heartwarming at the same time,” he said. “Here you’ve got an 8-year-old boy whose 6-year-old brother is severely handicapped and he’s kissing and cuddling him and I thought that was just beautiful.”

The Amy Winehouse Foundation was officially launched 10 weeks ago to support vulnerable youth, and has pledged to donate 500,000 pounds (\$780,000) in its first year.

Meeting the young beneficiaries in person has been a key part of grieving for their daughter, Winehouse said. A British coroner ruled the Grammy winner, known for her beehive hairdo and hit albums like “Frank” and

“Back to Black,” died of alcohol poisoning.

“We want to go and visit people because people loved Amy, the children loved Amy” Winehouse says.

The former taxi cab driver, who released his own jazz swing covers album in 2010, works full time on the foundation—but says it’s a job with no salary. Winehouse hopes a book he is working on will raise millions for the foundation.

“I would say this is what we do for a living but we don’t get paid to do it,” he said. “Amy’s left us in the fortunate position where we don’t have to worry about going to work like we had to, as long as we’re sensible and careful, but all of our efforts are now channeled into the foundation.”

The price tag of a new posthumous album by the singer, “Lion-

Charlie Sheen’s ex-wife arrested in Aspen

ASPEN, Colo. (AP)—Police say Charlie Sheen’s ex-wife, Brooke Mueller, has been arrested in Aspen on suspicion of third-degree assault and cocaine possession with intent to distribute.

Authorities say officers arrested Mueller early Saturday at a nightclub after a woman reported being assaulted by her.

Mueller posted \$11,000 bond and was released from custody. She’s scheduled in court Dec.

19. Aspen police spokeswoman Blair Weyer says additional details are not immediately available.

Her attorney, Yale Galanter, had no comment.

Sheen and Mueller divorced earlier this year, citing Christmas Day 2009 as the day of their breakup. Charlie Sheen was arrested in Aspen on that day on suspicion of assaulting Mueller.

He completed his probation in that case last November.

Winehouse warned there may be no more to come.



Mueller

Records show Christie Brinkley owes \$531k in taxes

NEW YORK (AP)—Records show supermodel Christie Brinkley owes \$531,000 in back taxes, and the IRS has filed a lien against her.

The Daily News of New York reports that the tax lien was filed

Nov. 21 on a mansion in Bridgehampton on New York’s Long Island, where she lives.

A spokeswoman for Brinkley says the star was surprised to hear the lien had been filed.

Spokeswoman Claire Mercu-

ri says: “Christie Brinkley ... has instructed her team to resolve the matter immediately.”

Brinkley was once married to Billy Joel. She made her Broadway debut this year playing Roxie Hart in the musical “Chicago.”

Mom with texting addiction needs a slap in her Facebook

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I have heard of interventions for drug and alcohol addicts. Could I stage one for my daughter “Aileen’s” addiction to texting on her cellphone and Facebook?

She and our grandson live with us because her marriage broke up. I am becoming the boy’s default mother because Aileen is constantly texting or spending hours on Facebook. She’ll say, “I have to send a quick message,” then reappear an hour later. By then, we have fed our grandson and changed his diaper.

When I try to discuss this with her, she says her work requires this constant communication, but I know it doesn’t. There have been times when Aileen’s feelings have been hurt because her son doesn’t want to go someplace with her and prefers to stay with us instead. I suspect that he feels ignored when he’s with her because her thumb is constantly flying across her phone. How can we get her to understand how this might be making her child feel?

FULLY PRESENT IN ARIZONA

DEAR FULLY PRESENT: You could and should stage an intervention with your daughter. Aileen is neglecting her son. It’s a shame that before couples are allowed to conceive that they aren’t forced to take parenting classes. The time she spends on Facebook and texting is time she should be interacting with him.

Because she is so easily distracted, you and her father should declare your home to be a digital-free zone unless your grandson is napping or in bed for the night. Consider making discussions with the boy’s pediatrician—and perhaps parenting classes—a condition of her staying in your home. She won’t like it, but it would be in your grandson’s best interests.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I’m a male in my 60s who has been active all my life and still try to be. However, I’m not dealing with the aging process very well. I have just been told that I’m going to lose my eyesight.

I have never been sick or hospitalized, no broken bones, no operations, ate right and consider myself in great health. But now I find myself taking naps a lot and not wanting to socialize very much. I have to force myself to do things.

I have always said one of these days it’s going to start raining on me, and then it will be over. I don’t like this attitude and I’m a great believer in faith. Any suggestions?

MALE READER IN THE U.S.A.

DEAR MALE READER: I wish you had included your address and phone number because I would have contacted you personally. The first thing to do is get a second opinion regarding your vision loss. If the diagnosis is confirmed, there are devices available that can help some sight-impaired people. There are also programs to help you adjust to your vision loss and live an independent and full life. But you should start now.

Some of the symptoms you describe could be signs of depression. Please consult your physician about them. With counseling and medication, the “rain” in your life could be reduced to a drizzle you can handle. And hang onto your faith because it will serve you well.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My husband brought me roses the day our divorce was final. We had been married almost 30 years. When I asked him why, he said, “Aren’t you happy? Isn’t this what you wanted?” HE was the one who initiated the divorce. What kind of man would do this?

STUMPED IN FLORIDA

DEAR STUMPED: Someone who is angry or sadistic, or one who got his wires seriously crossed.

■ ■ ■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

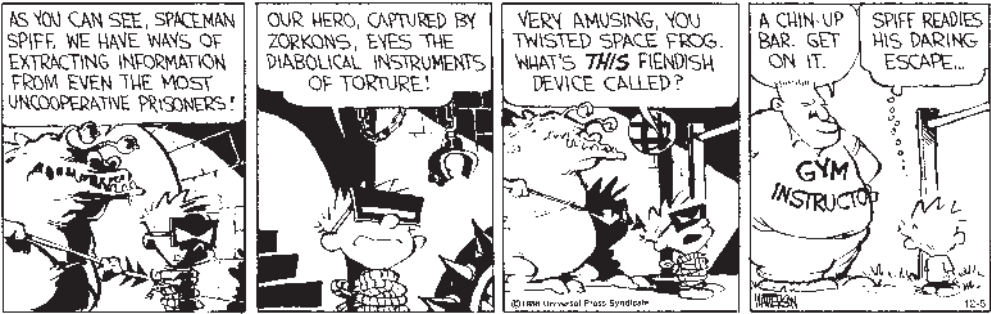
Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

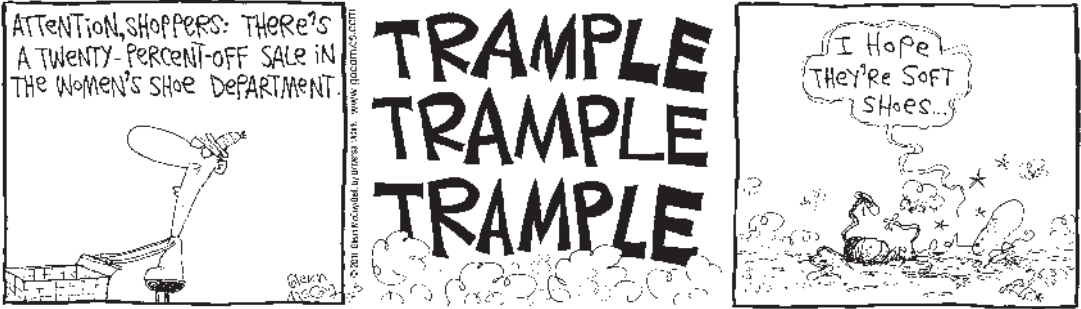


Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 1 Two-timer TV show, often 4 Arrow launcher 7 Goya's "Naked" subject 11 Scads 13 Atmosphere 14 PC picture 15 Panorama 16 Beer cousin 17 Fender bender 18 Artist's support 20 Knitting need 22 Lower limb 24 Used a switch-blade on 28 Unimportant 32 Spry 33 Relaxation 34 — de deux 36 Lug 37 Bother 39 Washing-ton city

DOWN 1 Bear lair, often 2 Others (Lat.) 3 Accomplishes 4 Sheep's cry 5 Unctuous 6 Cause, as havoc 7 Dark time 8 Expert 9 "The Daily Show" With — Stewart 10 Pismire 12 Another way 19 Floral neckwear

21 Genetic letters 23 Space 25 Authoritative command 26 Hebrew month 27 Take out of context? 28 Earl 29 Grey's kin 29 Hindu princess 30 "Say It — So" 31 — Vegas 35 The Red or the Black 38 Thee 40 Request 42 Ballroom dance 45 "Once — a time ..." 47 "Amores" poet 48 Gambling game 49 Tibetan herd 50 Biz deg. 51 Shade tree 52 Cattle call? 54 Auto fuel

Solution time: 24 mins.

Saturday's answer 12-5

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Frankie Muniz, 26; Keri Hilson, 29; Margaret Cho, 43; Little Richard, 79.

Happy Birthday: Get your priorities straight and make whatever moves are necessary to improve your emotional, financial and physical well-being. Don't wait around for someone else to make a move. It's up to you to make things happen. Don't fear disappointment or complaints when they are necessary components to getting on with your life. Recognize what you want and go after it. Your numbers are 1, 13, 15, 24, 28, 33, 45.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Take your goals seriously. Do as much for as little as possible. It's the quality you give others for a good price that will lead to your advancement. Conservative and thoughtful dealings will leave a lasting impression. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Shopping, getting together with youngsters or a loved one, or even creating some interesting surprises for the people you cherish will all turn out well. Don't waste time trying to impress when all you have to do is be yourself. ***

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Engage in plans that can lead to a better position. Putting a little bit of money into self-improvement will bring high returns. Network, talk to your bank manager or deal with any agency or institution that can help you advance. ****

CANCER (June 21-July 22): An emotional issue is likely to hold you back. Don't allow your uncertainty or someone else's to ruin a partnership that has potential.

Work around any problems you foresee with caution, intent on making improvements. **

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Don't worry about making last-minute changes. It will turn out better for you in the end and help you avoid someone who makes you feel uncertain. Don't let a work or financial project cost you. Stick to whatever budget you set. *****

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): A trip will enhance your knowledge and awareness, whether the journey is physical or spiritual. Open your heart and share your thoughts. You will meet people who are heading in the same direction. Your adventure will clarify what to do next. ***

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Keep things playful and avoid any discussions that have the potential to disrupt your personal or professional world. Bringing emotions into the mix will end in disaster. Don't play favorites or you will pay for being unfair. ***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Present whatever you have to offer visually. A lack of understanding is likely to occur if you try to explain your position. Taking an active role in a plan you want to execute to make your work more efficient will pay off. ***

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Get your home ready for the festive season. Open your doors to friends and group get-togethers. An opportunity to express your feelings for someone should be acted on carefully. You don't want to send the wrong impression. *****

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Focus on home and family. Making your residence a fun, comfortable safe haven for the ones you love should be your intent. Don't allow outsiders to take up your time or lead you in a direction that takes away from what's most important. **



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Your ideas need to be executed with an element of surprise in order to get the highest return. Good fortune can be yours as long as you don't let jealousy, possessiveness or anger interfere. ****



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Stick close to home and do not engage in travel or communication that has potential to turn insidious. Protect what you have and watch out for anyone who is trying to start an argument or take advantage of you. ***

Birthday Baby: You are outgoing, ambitious and opportunistic.

Eugenia's Web sites: eugenialast.com for confidential consultations, myspace.com/eugenialast for Eugenia's blog, astroadvice.com for fun

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

	2		3	1					9
3		6	9	2					
	4	1							
5	1				3				
8	3						2	1	
			7				8	4	
						1	9		
				6	2	4			5
6				4	9		3		

Difficulty Level ★

12/05

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Saturday's SUDOKU Answer

3	7	8	2	1	5	6	9	4
1	5	9	7	6	4	3	2	8
4	6	2	8	3	9	7	1	5
7	4	5	6	8	1	2	3	9
8	9	6	4	2	3	5	7	1
2	3	1	9	5	7	4	8	6
5	8	7	3	9	6	1	4	2
6	2	4	1	7	8	9	5	3
9	1	3	5	4	2	8	6	7

Difficulty Level ★★

WONDERWORD

By DAVID QUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

ELIJAH GOULDING

Solution: 8 letters

G	O	C	P	N	O	I	H	S	A	F	T	N	E	K
O	U	O	A	O	H	T	G	N	E	R	T	S	S	I
S	T	N	S	H	N	G	N	U	O	Y	I	P	T	S
S	G	F	S	T	T	N	I	L	A	C	O	V	H	U
A	O	I	A	E	I	K	E	R	R	I	H	G	M	
M	I	D	O	R	N	D	S	E	T	D	D	T	I	K
E	N	E	N	A	I	D	X	S	E	K	R	I	L	N
R	G	N	G	M	R	E	H	O	L	F	O	M	T	A
U	U	T	N	L	A	W	T	O	W	L	F	S	H	R
N	I	L	I	L	L	F	U	R	E	R	G	F		
N	T	A	R	F	C	A	R	E	C	S	R	A	I	O
E	A	S	U	E	C	Y	A	N	E	L	E	T	R	N
R	R	S	O	N	G	O	S	T	R	O	H	S	B	A
O	M	S	T	A	R	R	Y	E	Y	E	D	E	R	I
S	N	A	E	J	W	R	I	T	E	R	E	W	O	P

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Bright Lights, Care, Clarinet, Confident, Cute, Elena, Exercise, Fashion, Film, Folk, Frankmusik, Gossamer, Guitar, Guns and Horses, Hereford, Jane, Jeans, Kent, Marathon, Outgoing, Passion, Piano, Power, Royal Wedding, Runner, Salt, Self, Shorts, Skin, Song, Sports, Starry Eyed, Starsmith, Strength, Touring, Video, Vocal, Writer, Young

Last Saturday's Answer: Charming

CLASSIFIED ADS

WANTED TO BUY

Looking for used cars. Year 2003 & up. 4 cyl., Good condition. We pay cash! Pls. call 287-7676

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Fina Sisu Apt., 2-BR, 1-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Right behind NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. Special rates for NMC faculty/students. Call 235-6527/8 or 285-1317 for info.

WHATZIT Solution: Spring fever

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Lower Navy Hill Apts. Newly renovated bldg., 3BR & 2BTH. Rooms w/ A/C & fully furnished. Back-up generator. Free Wi-Fi, EPA Solar Water Heater. Laundry area. Nighttime security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.



Visit us at 885 S. Marine Dr.,
Orlean Pacific Plaza Ste. 104, Tamuning, Guam 96913
Tel: (671) 649-WISH • Fax: (671) 646-6293
Email: mawifguam@ite.net • www.wish.org
Office Hours: 8:30am-5:30pm, M-F daily

Saipan Tribune

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Ocean View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nighttime security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Duplex Apt Capitol Hill

2 br, 1 bth, Fully Furnished
w/ AC, Linens, Pots, Pans, etc.,
very private: 322-2424

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Sunset View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nighttime security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

STYROFOAM

4'X8' SHEETS

TEL.: 287-3700

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 6-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as \$27 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	\$15	\$27
• 5-Liner	\$24	\$39
• 3-Liner with picture	\$24	\$42
• 5-Liner with picture	\$36	\$57

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
■ All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122
THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC
POST OFFICE BOX 5222
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL: (670) 234-6547
FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEYS FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

THE FINANCIAL & INSURANCE SERVICES GROUP, INC., Plaintiff,	CIVIL ACTION NO. 09-0338
-v-	THIRD AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE
RAMON P. AGULTO and DALIA R. AGULTO, Defendants.	

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to Order issued by the Court in this matter on June 16, 2010, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all the right, title, and interest of Defendant in and to the following property: Lot 001 G 32, situated in Kagman, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 001 G 02, the original of which was recorded March 20, 1986 as Document No. 86-0513 at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office, Saipan, and also recorded on February 16, 1989, as Document No. 89-511, at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office, Saipan, the description therein being incorporated herein by this reference.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, December 30, 2011, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 14th day of November, 2011:

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

Robert Tenorio Torres
Attorney at Law
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 503758
Saipan, MP 96950

Tel: (670) 234-7859
Fax: (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

MARIANAS PUBLIC LAND TRUST, Plaintiff,	Civil Action No. 11-0129-CV
vs.	AMENDED SUMMONS
INAS JOHN M. HOCOG, LAWRENCE M. HOCOG and LORETO B. HOCOG a.k.a. LARRY B. HOCOG, Defendants.	

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANT INAS JOHN M. HOCOG and LAWRENCE M. HOCOG:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED AND NOTIFIED to file any answer you wish to make to the COMPLAINT within twenty (20) days after service of this AMENDED SUMMONS upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to Robert Tenorio Torres, Attorney at Law, P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950, or as soon as practicable after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Court of the above-entitled Court for filing.






Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Office of the Clerk of Court, CNMI Superior Court, 1st Floor, Guma' Hustisia, Iimwal Aweewe, House of Justice, P.O. Box 500307, Saipan, MP 96950-0307. It may be prepared and signed for you by your attorney and sent to the Clerk of Court by messenger or by mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to file an answer in accordance with this AMENDED SUMMONS, judgment by default pursuant to the court rules of the above-entitled Court may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

SO ORDERED on this 28th day of July, 2011.

/s/ CLERK OF COURT

VEHICLES FOR SALE

<p>2006 MAZDA 3 - 4DR SDN 46K MILES, 4 CYL., AT. EXCELLENT CONDITION CAR FAX: NO ACCIDENT (REPO ONLY) KBB VALUE: \$ 9,525.00</p> <p>SELLING PRICE: \$ 8,500.00</p> 	<p>2006 HYUNDAI TUCSON 2WD SUV 20K MILES ONLY, 4 CYL., AT. EXCELLENT CONDITION CAR FAX: NO ACCIDENT (REPO ONLY) KBB VALUE: \$ 8,775.00</p> <p>SELLING PRICE: \$ 8,500.00</p> 
<p>2008 HYUNDAI TUCSON 2WD 90K MILES, 4 CYL. AT. EXCELLENT CONDITION CAR FAX: NO ACCIDENT (REPO ONLY) KBB VALUE: \$ 12,750.00</p> <p>SELLING PRICE: \$ 8,775.00</p> 	<p>2010 MAZDA 3 - 4DR SDN 14K MILES ONLY, 4 CYL. AT. VERY EXCELLENT CONDITION (LIKE NEW) CAR FAX: NO ACCIDENT (REPO ONLY) KBB VALUE: \$ 13,325.00</p> <p>SELLING PRICE: \$ 12,000.00</p> 
<p>2005 MAZDA TRIBUTE 2WD SUV 80K MILES, 4 CYL., AT. EXCELLENT CONDITION CAR FAX: NO ACCIDENT (REPO ONLY) KBB VALUE: \$ 6,975.00</p> <p>SELLING PRICE: \$ 6,500.00</p> 	<p>Vehicles are located besides the traffic light near Shell DanDan. For inspection and test drive, please call 234-2869 or 989-2869.</p>

Saipan Health clinic and St. Jude Renal Care Facility, Inc. at Chalan Kiya, Saipan

Job Vacancy Announcement

PHYSICIAN (01)

This position will be under the direct supervision of the Medical Director and must be able to do the following:

- Responds and diagnose medical/health problems presented by patients and prescribe and administer treatments for patients and prescribe and administer treatments for patients suffering from injuries and diseases.
- Examines patients, obtain medical histories, order, perform and interpret diagnostic tests.
- Counsel patients on diet, hygiene and preventive healthcare.
- Maintain confidentiality and impartiality.
- Organize preventive health programs for individual patients.
- Provides special clinics for specific conditions for certain groups and/or refer patients to public health or other healthcare entities e.g. diabetes, smoking cessation, new babies.
- Commissioning healthcare by liaising with medical professionals in the community and hospitals.
- Promotes health education in conjunction with other health professionals.
- Keeping up to date with medical developments, new drugs, treatments and medications including complimentary medicines.
- Provides medical assistants to hemodialysis patients and confer with the Medical Director and Nephrologists on any medical problems presented by the patients.

- Graduate from School of Medicine
- Must pass U.S. Medical Licensing Exam
- Must have 2 years or more experience in the field of medicine.
- Must be fluent in English

Please submit resume or pick-up application at Saipan Health Clinic or send email to Connie Aldan or Judy Arriola at hpcshc@pticom.com. No phone calls please.

HEALTH PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION

This position is located at the Health Professional Corporation dba Saipan Health clinic at Chalan Kiya, Saipan.

(1) MIDWIFE:

This position will be under the direct supervision of the Obgyn, Supervising Physician. Has a range of responsibilities, including the care of mother and baby, adhering to clinic and hospital policy and maintaining an awareness of issues such as health and safety. Typical work activities include:


- Diagnosing, monitoring and examining women during pregnancy.
- Developing, assessing an evaluating individual programs of care;
- Providing full antenatal care, including screening tests in the clinic
- Identifying high risk pregnancies and making referrals to doctors and other medical specialists;
- Arranging and providing parenting and health education for the woman, her partner and family members
- Encouraging participation of family members in the birth to support the mother and enhance both mother/baby bonding and family relationships.
- Providing counseling and advice following events such as miscarriage, termination, stillbirth, neonatal abnormality and neonatal death;
- Supervising and assisting mothers in labour, monitoring the condition of the fetus and using knowledge of drugs and pain management;
- Giving support and advice on the daily care of the baby, including breast feeding, bathing and making up feeds;
- Providing advice and guidance on a safe and timely transfer home;
- Liaising with agencies and other health and social care professionals to ensure continuity of case.
- Participating in the training and supervision of junior colleagues.

- Graduate from School of Nursing
- Must have CNMI Medical Professional Licensing Board for midwife
- Must have 3 years of more experience in the field of Midwifery
- Must have certification in Midwife and Nursing and have passed qualifying examination certificate in nursing

Please submit resume or pick-up application at Saipan health Clinic or send email to Connie Aldan or Judy Arriola at hpcshc@pticom.com. No phone calls please.

WHATZIT?

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.



www.facebook.com/dingbatgames

Find today's solution in classified section

Magic-Thunder, Clippers-Warriors set for Christmas



NEW YORK (AP)—Oklahoma City will host Orlando before Blake Griffin and the Los Angeles Clippers visit Golden State on Christmas night, running the NBA's planned opening-day schedule to five games.

Those games were added Friday to the three that were already set when the 2011-12 schedule was originally unveiled: Boston at New York, Miami at Dallas, and Chicago at

the Los Angeles Lakers.

Commissioner David Stern said the league hoped to open the season with that tripleheader after announcing a tentative agreement on a new labor deal with the players last Saturday. But the league decided to add two later games, with the night-cap featuring Mark Jackson's debut as Warriors coach.

The revised 66-game schedule will be released Tuesday night during an NBA TV special.

Celtics not trying to deal Rondo

WALTHAM, Mass. (AP)—The Boston Celtics say they're not actively trying to trade point guard Rajon Rondo.

Amid reports that he's willing to explore that possibility, Danny Ainge, the team's president of basketball operations, said Friday "I don't anticipate" breaking up his core of four stars—Paul Pierce, Kevin Garnett, Ray Allen, and Rondo.

Ainge and coach Doc Rivers met with the media for the first time since the NBA lock-out. The session was held at the team's practice facility, but there was no sign of any players, who were allowed to begin working out there Thursday.

Sports Illustrated first reported that the Celtics would be willing to give up Rondo to get Chris Paul of the New Orleans Hornets. Paul can become a free agent after this season.

Asked if he was actively seeking to deal Rondo, Ainge said, "I'm not," but he knows that rumors are always around.

"Trade rumors are part of the world we live in," he said. "It's a media circus out there. Everybody's name has been in trade rumors and everybody's name will. If you're worth your salt you'll be mentioned in a trade somewhere along the line. That's just part of the business that players have to learn to live with as well."

He said he addresses rumors with players involved in them.

"I'll talk to Rondo, but I won't talk to you about what I said to him," Ainge told reporters. "Rondo will be fine. Rondo knows that we love him. He knows that we like him, and he's excited to come back and play basketball."

Rondo and Paul are two of the NBA's top point guards, but Paul is a better shooter.

"I'm not going to compare him to the other guys but I think he's one of the top point guards in the NBA," said Rivers. "Rondo has established that. There's a reason (that) whatever this thing leaked out that it's all over the news. It's because the players that they're talking about are both really good."

"Rondo has established that through his play. Listen, he is a great basketball player and he does so many things for our team and he should be flat-

tered in a lot of ways that this is news."

Ainge isn't surprised when other teams ask him about Rondo.

"He gets a lot of attention. He's a great player. There's a lot of people that call me and ask me about Rondo," he said. "We didn't leak those rumors out. We'll deal with it. He'll be fine."

Ainge has plenty of other concerns.

With only six signed players, he must fill out the roster. NBA training camps and the free agent signing period begin on Dec. 9 with the regular season expected to start on Dec. 25.

Ainge said, perhaps jokingly, that he hopes to have "at least 10" players ready for camp following last season's five-game elimination by the Miami Heat in the Eastern Conference semifinals.

"We need size," said Ainge, who also is looking for a back-up point guard and wing players. "We have a lot of needs - our whole bench."

The six signed players are Pierce, Garnett, Allen, Rondo, center Jermaine O'Neal, and second-year guard Avery Bradley. Restricted free agent Jeff Green has received a qualifying offer, meaning the Celtics can match any other offer he receives. Forward Glenn Davis and guard Delonte West are unrestricted free agents, and Ainge said he's contacted their representatives to see if they can be retained.

"Every year is a challenge and brings different challenges," Ainge said. "We have a list of players that we'd like to get. ... Right now, there's a lot of money out there, a lot of teams with (salary) cap space, so players are waiting for the big pay days. So we have to be patient in this process."

At least the Celtics have a season to prepare for after the long labor dispute.

"I'm just thrilled to be able to do my job again and I am really looking forward to this season," Rivers said. "You've just been kind of in a holding pattern to get started—obviously, in Danny's case, trying to fill out the right roster for us. And now we can do that, or at least get started on doing that."

"I'm just excited that we can get going."



The Orlando Magic's Dwight Howard is seen here going up for a shot in an undated file photo. Oklahoma City will host Orlando on Christmas night, running the NBA's planned opening-day schedule to five games.

AP

TNT will televise the opener, while ABC gets the NBA finals rematch and the matchup between MVP Derrick Rose and Kobe Bryant, whose Lakers will be playing their first game under former Cleveland coach Mike Brown. The final two contests will air on ESPN.

The Thunder reached the Western Conference finals last season behind league scoring champion

Kevin Durant, while the Magic face the uncertainty of Dwight Howard's future with the team.

"It's a different opening day than has ever happened in the past and Christmas Day games have always been a big day for the NBA," ESPN analyst Jeff Van Gundy said in a statement.

"This unique situation combined with the unveiling of a championship banner for the

Mavericks in a finals rematch, and then to see the Lakers and the debut of Mike Brown as head coach, those things are all going to be very compelling."

The Dec. 25 opening date is contingent on the CBA being ratified next week.

Lawyers for the league and players' association resumed negotiations Friday on the remaining issues, the so-called

B-list items such as drug testing, the draft eligibility age and the commissioner's power to discipline. The goal is to complete the agreement Tuesday so it could be presented at a meeting of player representatives Wednesday, then both sides would vote to ratify it Thursday.

If that happens, training camps and free agency would open next Friday.

Zach Johnson takes 1-shot lead over Woods

THOUSAND OAKS, Calif. (AP)—Zach Johnson needed something special to track down Tiger Woods in the Chevron World Challenge. Holing a 7-iron from the 18th fairway for eagle did the trick Saturday.

Johnson's shot from 163 yards landed near the cup and spun into the hole, giving him a 4-under 68 and a one-shot lead over Woods going into the final round at Sherwood Country Club.

It was the second eagle on the back nine for Johnson, who also chipped in on the par-5 11th.

Woods had the 36-hole lead for the second straight tournament, and for the second straight time failed to break par in the third round. He had three bogeys on the par 5s and had to settle for a 73, though he had few complaints.

The wind was strong and chilly from the start, and rarely stayed the same direction very long. With a wedge in his hand, Woods went some 40 feet long on the second hole that led to a three-putt bogey. Another wedge on the par-5 13th sailed over the green and left a pitch he had no chance to get close.

Both players ran into trouble on the par-5 16th.

Johnson was playing in the group ahead of Woods, felt the breeze in his face and tried to hammer a driver that went left of the grass and into the gallery. He tried to clear a creek and went into the trees to the right before pitching out and taking a bogey.

Woods was in the fairway, but says a gust took his fairway metal too far right and into a hazard. He thought about trying to hit out behind a

pair of rocks before choosing to take a penalty drop, and he also made bogey.

The difference was how they finished.

Johnson three-putted the 17th for another bogey, then drilled his 7-iron at the flag on the 18th for the most unlikely finish to his round. The eagle put him at 8-under 208.

Woods had to settle for pars. K.J. Choi, who took a double bogey on the second hole, recovered for a 72 and was three shots behind. Everyone else was at least five shots behind, including

Matt Kuchar, who played with Woods and had a 74.

The wind was so confounding that the final group was still on the 16th green after four hours, nearly two holes behind the group ahead of them.

Johnson, a former Masters champion, saw his streak end this year of four straight seasons winning on the PGA Tour.

The Chevron World Challenge counts toward the world ranking, but is not official for the tour. He still wouldn't mind using it as a springboard

for the next season, much like Tom Lehman did in the early days of this event, and Jim Furyk did in 2009.

For Woods, going from a three-shot lead to a one-shot deficit was not the end of the world.

He felt as though he played as well as he had the first two days, without having much luck with the wind. And for a guy who has gone two years without winning, the hardest part of hoisting a trophy is getting a chance.

He at least has that.

"Even though I made three bogeys on the par 5s, I played well," Woods said. "I'm right there with a chance."

Woods still had his three-shot lead when he chipped in from behind the fourth green for birdie. The wind was at its worst on the sixth hole, gusting hard with leaves scattered about the fairway. Woods felt it at his back and to the right, yet as the ball was in the air, it came against him from the left. He came up well short, chipped 7 feet by the hole and lipped out.

Hunter Mahan was the first player to make a run at Woods, going out in 33 and tying for the lead briefly after Woods had a three-putt bogey on the par-3 eighth.

Woods seemed to steady himself with a beautiful flop shot on the 10th that ran up the bank and trickled back 4 feet from the cup, and a solid approach to 18 feet for a two-putt birdie on the 11th.

But he went long of the 13th, turning a birdie hole into a bogey. He made a mess of the 16th with his penalty shot. And he had nothing to match an eagle from the fairway by Johnson on the final hole.



TIGER WOODS FOUNDATION

Magic Johnson joins bid to buy Los Angeles Dodgers



In this photo taken by AP Images for AIDS Healthcare Foundation, basketball legend and AIDS advocate Earvin 'Magic' Johnson is seen during a press conference to present the 2nd annual "World AIDS Day Magic Award" and kick off the free HIV testing caravan at the AHF Magic Johnson Clinic in Los Angeles Thursday, Dec. 1, 2011.

AP



LOS ANGELES (AP)—

The Los Angeles Dodgers could be ready for a little Magic.

Magic Johnson has joined a group bidding to buy the beleaguered Dodgers, hoping to restore the luster of a once-glamorous franchise that has been sullied during owner Frank McCourt's messy tenure.

Johnson, the longtime Los Angeles Lakers superstar and former part-owner of the NBA club, is partnering with former Atlanta Braves executive Stan Kasten and wealthy investor Mark Walter in the upcoming auction for the Dodgers, who filed for bankruptcy protection in June. McCourt finally agreed last month to auction the team at an undetermined future date.

"I'm excited to have the opportunity to be part of the Dodgers legacy & bring a World Series championship back to LA," Johnson tweeted Friday.

Johnson has joined a heavy-

weight group in what's expected to be a tough competition for the Dodgers: Kasten is the former president of the Braves and Washington Nationals, while Walter is the CEO of a global financial services firm managing more than \$125 billion in assets. Their organization will be called Guggenheim Baseball Management, and Walter's vast financial resources could put the group up front in the bidding.

The Los Angeles Times first reported Johnson's interest in the Dodgers. The news was greeted with enthusiasm across Los Angeles from fans who count Magic among the most popular athletes in Southern California sports history.

The three-time NBA Most Valuable Player has become a successful businessman since his second retirement in 1996, with investments in several sectors of commercial real estate. But Johnson's passion still is sports, and he has spent several years looking for an

ownership role in a pro franchise, most recently expressing his interest in returning the NFL to Los Angeles.

Johnson amicably left his ownership position with the Lakers in October 2010, selling his 4.5 percent equity stake to Dr. Patrick Soon-Shiong in what's widely thought to be a wildly lucrative transaction for the former Lakers point guard.

The Lakers would love to see Johnson with a large ownership role in the Dodgers. Lakers general manager Mitch Kupchak regularly speaks with Johnson, who has said he'll never leave his influential role behind the scenes with the Lakers and the Buss family.

"I know he's sitting on a pile of cash, which is maybe why I take his calls as often as I do," Kupchak said Friday. "He's been incredibly supportive as an owner. Never once did he say, 'Mitch, this is what you should do.' He would be a great owner (of the Dodgers)."

Johnson played baseball growing up in Michigan, where he rooted for the Detroit Tigers.

The full list of bidders for the Dodgers is still unclear, but it will be studded with accomplished businessmen and famous athletes who realize a cash machine is sitting up in Chavez Ravine for the proper ownership.

Former Dodgers owner Peter O'Malley is in the mix, and Dallas Mavericks owner Mark Cuban has said he's investigating the prospect. Former Dodgers Steve Garvey and Orel Hershiser have been vocal about pursuing the club, while former Dodgers general manager Fred Claire, Los Angeles developer Rick Caruso, supermarket mogul Ron Burkle and former Buffalo Sabres owner Tom Golisano have been linked to the bidding.

The price likely will break the record for a baseball franchise, topping the \$845 million paid by the Ricketts family for the Chicago Cubs in 2009.

McNabb goes unclaimed, becomes free agent



MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—

Donovan McNabb is a free agent for the first time in his 13-year career. After his last two disappointing stints as a starter, it's not clear what the future has in store for one of the most accomplished quarterbacks of his generation.

McNabb was unclaimed by the waiver deadline on Friday afternoon, one day after he was cut by the Minnesota Vikings so he could pursue an opportunity for playing time elsewhere.

"This was probably the most desirable outcome," McNabb's agent, Fletcher Smith, told The Associated Press on Friday. "This way it really gives him a chance to weigh his options and evaluate the situations as they come and make the best decision for him."

"The intent all along was to put himself in a position to explore any opportunities as they present themselves. He could not do that while he was a mem-

ber of the Minnesota Vikings."

Vikings coach Leslie Frazier knew McNabb from their days together in Philadelphia, and he hand-picked the veteran to serve as a bridge between Brett Favre and rookie Christian Ponder.

Frazier was convinced a rough season in Washington in 2010 was a fluke and McNabb could help the first-year head coach avoid a rebuilding season in Minnesota.

Playing behind a leaky offensive line and with a lack of play-making receivers in the passing game, McNabb struggled to get the Vikings offense off the ground. He completed 60 percent of his passes for 1,026 yards with four touchdowns and two interceptions in six games. But he only completed five passes of 25 yards or more and was benched in the fourth quarter of a blowout loss in Chicago that dropped the Vikings to 1-5.

Ponder took over as the starter the following week, and

McNabb pushed for his release when he realized that there would be no chance for him to see the field for the rest of the season. The Vikings (2-9) obliged on Thursday and picked up Sage Rosenfels (notes) off waivers from Miami to fill McNabb's roster spot.

That leaves the future of a highly decorated quarterback—six Pro Bowls, five NFC championship games, a Super Bowl appearance and more than 37,000 yards passing—very much in doubt. After leading the Eagles so proudly for 11 seasons, the 34-year-old McNabb has stumbled in his last two stops in Washington and Minnesota.

Smith said McNabb "still feels he can play at a high level today."

There was talk of his hometown Bears putting a claim in on McNabb after they lost starter Jay Cutler to a broken thumb. But the Bears declined to do so, hoping that Caleb Hanie can

steer them to the playoffs before Cutler is healthy enough to return to the field.

After passing through waivers, McNabb is free to sign with any team, and Smith said that playing time wouldn't necessarily be the top priority.

"At the end of the day, at this stage of his career, the most important thing for him is winning a Super Bowl," Smith said. "That's what he wanted in Minnesota, that's what he wanted in Washington and that's what he wanted in Philadelphia. If he moves to another team, that's what he'll want there."

But will that next opportunity come as a starter? Frazier said Thursday he still believes McNabb has a future in the NFL, but he hesitated when asked if it was as a starter.

"I'm not certain about that," Frazier said. "It depends. Every team is so different in what their needs are. A lot depends on the team he goes to, if he goes to another team."

Red Sox bring out Bobby Valentine as new manager

BOSTON (AP)—Bobby Valentine took over as manager of the Boston Red Sox on Thursday, promising to be hardworking, open-minded and even humble as he tries to help the franchise return to the playoffs and forget the disappointment of this season's unprecedented September collapse.

"It's more than a special day. It's the beginning of a life that's going to extend beyond anything I thought of doing," Valentine said. "The talent level of the players we have in this organization is a gift to anyone, and I think I'm a receiver of this gift."

"I think we're going to do this, man," he said, smiling and turning to shake hands with general manager Ben Cherington. "And I really and truly appreciate this opportunity."

The 61-year-old Valentine agreed to a two-year deal with club options for 2014 and 2015 that was announced in a Fenway Park premium club during a news conference attended by owner John Henry and his wife, by Red Sox CEO Larry Lucchino, by an entourage of friends from Stamford, Conn., by dozens of team employees and by about 100 members of the media, many of them from New York outlets that covered Valentine in his days with the Mets.

"There is a buzz," Lucchino said, acknowledging that Valentine's personality and his history in New York could enhance an already intense AL East rivalry with the Yankees. "I think it does add a little bit of kerosene to the fire."

Valentine, who also managed the Texas Rangers and who guided the Chiba Lotte Marines to the 2005 championship, greeted one reporter in Japanese.

"Bobby's a big personality," Henry said. "I think that's a plus."

Valentine said he got a taste of a Yankees rivalry with the Mets. But they only played six times a season in interleague play; the division opponents play 18 times in 2012.

"I'm really excited," Valentine said. "I know the Yankees always have a team where you have to put your best foot forward when you're playing them. ... I think we're going to be able to match them. It's not going to be the best team that wins, but the team that plays the best."

Valentine brings to Boston a reputation as a polarizing figure who wasn't afraid to criticize his players publicly—something former Red Sox manager Terry Francona never did—and who bickered with his boss at the Mets. But he takes over a team with a bit of a reputation problem of its own: After going 7-20 in September to miss the playoffs by one game, the Red Sox have been hounded by reports that players drank beer and ate fried chicken in the clubhouse during games instead of sitting

in the dugout to support their teammates.

"I didn't see it first hand," Valentine cautioned, before saying about the team what he could have said in his own defense: "Reputation is something other people think about you. Right now maybe this group of guys has a reputation that is not warranted. ... I can tell you I look forward to working with this group and establishing a culture of excellence."

Vowing to get to know the players personally first, Valentine said there was no single way to restore discipline to a clubhouse. "I don't have a Ten Commandments of Baseball that I'm going to recite to them," he said.

Valentine took the Mets to the 2000 World Series but he was fired after a last-place finish led to clubhouse turmoil two years later. Depending on whom you believe, he was either a relentless self-promoter or honest to a fault.

"I think people who take the time to get to know me understand I have some qualities in my character that are OK," he said. "I'm not a monster who breathes fire who some people refer to me as. I'm a guy, a regular human being with regular feelings."

Valentine said that he had learned from his previous managerial jobs.

But one thing won't change. "I'm still going to get frustrated when things aren't done in an excellent way," he said. "I'm still going to get out early to try to fix everything in the world."

Valentine was a late entry in Boston's managerial search—at least publicly, as the Red Sox left him off of their initial short list because he was in a visible position as an ESPN analyst at the time. Pete Mackanin, Sandy Alomar Jr., Dale Sveum, Torey Lovullo and Gene Lamont were also interviewed; Lamont was also a finalist.

"It was not a tightly ordered, linear process," Lucchino said. "It never is."

Cherington denied reports that Valentine was forced on him by Lucchino and Henry.

"It's just not true," said the new GM, who was promoted when Theo Epstein left to become president of baseball operations for the Chicago Cubs. "I feel very strongly we found the right person in Bobby Valentine."

Valentine said he didn't allow himself to believe he could get the job until he received a text message from Cherington—pulling out his cellphone to read reporters the time: 8:37 a.m. on Nov. 29. "I would wake up at night thinking there's a chance and then say, 'Don't go there. You're going to get your heart broken,'" said Valentine, who was in Japan on a goodwill visit when he got the news.

Proa holds off FGC rally in GBL IT&E Cup



Proa's Dan Barcinas, 4, battles FGC's Rex Yabut, 9, for the long rebound during their game in the GBL IT&E Cup last Friday at the Garapan Basketball Court.

By **WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND**
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Proa fended off FGC's fourth-quarter rally to eke out a 79-78 win during the lone game completed in the Garapan Basketball League IT&E Cup last Friday at

the Garapan Basketball Court.

Jack Lizama made a putback in the closing seconds for the game-winning basket, improving Proa's record to 4-2. FGC fell to a 2-3 slate.

A couple of early three-pointers gave Proa a 16-12 lead in the first quarter of Friday's opener. Joe Villacrusis paced Proa with

seven markers in the period. Then Proa's Pete Iguel began to work in the second and tallied 10 points to keep his team ahead at halftime, 38-32.

At the start of the second half, Proa drilled four more treys to remain in front, 59-52, heading into the final period. In the fourth frame, FGC continued

to battle back and managed to take the lead for a brief period at crutch time.

Kae Bernardo made a clutch and one that gave his team the lead, 76-74, with two minutes left in the game. Proa's Libuw fouled out as a result of Bernardo's three-point play, freeing up space down low for FGC.

Later in the final minute a jump ball gave possession to FGC, after which Proa committed an ill-advised foul off the inbounds pass, sending Zack Babauta to the line. Babauta nailed both charities to up their lead to four, 78-74, but Proa's Dan Barcinas quickly answered on the other end to pull his team within one, 77-78.

FGC went for the full court pass and Proa sniffed it out at half court. Proa misfired on its first shot, but Lizama came up with the putback for the win.

Pete Iguel led Proa with 24 points, while FGC's Rex Yabut finished with 21 in the tough loss.

In the second game, Satbahi-Blue Haus (1-2) was leading Andhok's (0-4), 53-35, with just over nine minutes left in the fourth when the match was rained-out.

Meanwhile, GBL action continues tonight with Mobil (2-3) taking on Andhok's at 6:30pm, and undefeated Konflikt-IT&E (4-0) battling the Ol' Aces (1-2).

Proa 79 – Iguel 24, Barcinas 11, Lizama 10, Villacrusis 7, Chariton 6, Sablan 5, Ogunmoro 5, Libuw 4, Johnson 2, Mendiola 2.

FGC 78 – Yabut 21, Pagarao 17, Bernardo 15, Basila 12, Babauta 9, David 4.

Scoring by quarters: 16-12, 38-32, 59-52, 79-78.

DFS

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opening quarter, the team was held to only five field goals.

In contrast, offense was not a problem for DFS, as it drew 10 points from Won Joo Jung and nine from Pete Iguel in the first quarter to seize control of the match.

Galarse and Pagarao arrived in the second frame, but the latter was still looking for his rhythm and was held to two points, while the former contributed right away with his seven points. However, their presence were not enough to prevent DFS from pulling away with a 48-27 advantage at half-time. Iguel was still at it for DFS in the second canto, adding six markers, while Jack Lizama and Dan Barcinas combined for 13.

DFS maintained the double-digit lead after the third period, 69-53, as Grillin' failed to contain Iguel and Lizama anew at the start of the second half.

Down by 16, entering the final canto, Pagarao and Galarse teamed up in Grillin's 10-2 run in the first two and a half minutes of the fourth to move within eight, 63-71.

Jack Lizama canned a pair of free throws in the ensuing play to end the rally and DFS closed out strong with Jung, Iguel, and Lizama conniving in the homestretch.

Iguel paced DFS with 25 points, while Lizama and Jung chipped in 23 and 17, respectively.

Galarse top-scored for Grillin' with 22, while Pagarao added 16.

In the first playoff game, Gyles Ruloked stepped in place

of Marvin Rabauliman, while Jun Estolas had his usual high-scoring night to lift Mobil to the nine-point win.

Estolas fired a game-high 28 points and went 6-for-7 from the foul line and scored eight points in the fourth quarter to keep Mobil's distance with Hyatt. Ruloked also canned eight of his 25 markers in the fourth canto, making up for the absence of the injured Rabauliman.

Jorge De Guzman and Larry Sharry also contributed on Mobil's cause nailing 14 apiece, while Bart Demapan added 13.

All five double figure scorers for Mobil drained at least five points each in the fourth quarter, helping their team protect its lead in the final canto. Mobil was ahead by only three after the third frame, 69-66, and remained on top with Estolas and Ruloked anchoring the team's offense in the fourth period.

First Game

Mobil 102 – Estolas 28, Ruloked 25, De Guzman 14, Sharry 14, Demapan 13, Wenceslao 2, Isip 2, Gapor 2.

Hyatt Regency Saipan 93 – Libuw 18, Alipio 17, Arreza 15, Umali 11, Aquino 9, Castro 8, Tumaquip 7, Durant 4, Devero 4.

Scoring by quarters: 22-22, 45-43, 69-66, 102-93.

Second Game

DFS Galleria 94 – Iguel 25, Lizama 23, Jung 17, Barcinas 10, White 7, Chavez 6, Guiab 4.

Grillin' 80 – Galarse 22, Pagarao 16, Ritual 14, Lerio 13, Hernandez 6, Rotap 4, J. Loste 3, G. Loste 2.

Scoring by quarters: 28-12, 48-27, 69-63, 94-80.

AUSSIES

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finish line in San Antonio more than three minutes ahead of runner-up Kinji Hashimoto of Japan (3:00:59.18) and seven minutes earlier than 2010 champion Joon Yong Seo of Korea (3:05:42).

The Top 3 finishers in the men's field were in the company of Russia's Konstantin Fast and Danila Komkov, Australia's Matthew Wood and Willett, and a couple of Korean bikers on the way up to San Vicente, Papago, and Kagman.

Then Anderson managed to take about four minutes of lead on the way to Kingfisher when majority of the main pack made a wrong turn to Sta. Lourdes.

"I also had a wrong turn, but after only a few seconds, I turned back and headed to the

main road," said Anderson, who padded his lead on the way up to the 50-km mark at Radar Station.

Anderson was already heading to Banzai Cliff after completing the Grotto turn when he crossed path with this two closest pursuers—Seo and Jung Hwan Youm, who just came back from Suicide Cliff. From there, going down the course back to the starting line in San Antonio via Beach Road was cruise control for the Australian, who was thankful for the good weather on race day.

"I am from Queensland and use to racing in heat. But I was told it was hotter here so I was kind of worried at the start of the race. I was thankful it was a bid cloudy during the race and a few minutes of rain was a relief," said Anderson, who pedaled down Marpi to San Roque in rain.

Wrong turn, crashes, flat tires

With Fast and Komkov joining a small group of riders making a turn at Sta. Lourdes instead at Kingfisher, the two Russians dropped to fifth and sixth overall, with times of 3:08:44.78 and 3:11:31.25.

Wood took the cue from Anderson and turned back quickly to the main road en route to Kingfisher, but two crashes at Suicide Cliff slowed him down. Several other riders also had crashes on the way to Papago and Suicide Cliff.

Before the wrong turn, Komkov also had a flat tire in the first 25-kilometer of the race and had to stop at Mobil station in Kagman to replace his front tire.

Saipan bet Mieke Carey was a victim of tire problems too. In Papago, she had a flat tire and then at Laolao, the front tire exploded. He had to wait for a ride from Laolao to Mobil Kag-

man and was forced to borrow a bike. Carey still made it to the finish line before the four-hour mark in her loaned bike, but told organizers she was disqualified for riding on a car from Laolao to Mobil Kagman.

With Carey's finish void, Russia's Natalia Zakharova (3:43:52.91) and Japan's Asumi Nozawa (4:38:44.50) joined Willett in the Top 3.

"Although I had a crash-free ride, the course was still tough. Before the race, I told Kieran Daly (former PIC general manager) that I could ride the course twice, make it a 200-kilometer race. Now, I take it back. It was tough, the road uphill was slippery," Willett said.

Willett's time surpassed the 2010 record of (3:28:05) Carey and was just about three minutes behind the women's record of 3:13:20 posted by Australia's Amber Halliday in 2009.

MHS

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his 16:56. Teammate Joshua Mendiola (17:44) finished second and Saipan Community School's Kai Lee (18:06) settled for third place. Hopwood fielded seven runners in the race and also received a team trophy.

The Hilitais also took the U14 girls team award, as its

party of five was the only team to complete the division. Mikayla Lopez crossed the line well ahead in first at 19:09, while Zarinae Sapong (27:16) outsprinted Rumina Litulumar (27:18) at the homestretch.

Hopwood's Djaymarch Ong led the nine-runner U12 boys division with his time of 16:34, beating SCS's Elnathan Wong (17:16) and teammate Nathaniel Montano (17:47).

SCS swept the U12 girls podium as Tammy Ackerman (19:37), Seung Yeon Han (25:02) and Shirley Quian (25:13) finished 1-2-3 and ahead of a pair of Hopwood runners.

The U14 and U12 groups ran a 1.9-mile course.

Whispering Palms' Logan Mister won the five-runner U10 boys group, closing in at 06:59 and ahead of SCS's Ken

Song (07:22) and Haruya Eda (07:31), while the U10 girls lone competitor out of Garapan Elementary School, Josh-alyn Flores, ran the course in 09:39.

Kagman Elementary School's Keon Karibiel timed in at 08:16 to win the U8 boys title against SCS's Jason Sablan (08:29) and John Hong (8:42). The U8 and U10 fields all ran a 1.1-mile course.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

CHEVRON CHALLENGE SCORES

THOUSAND OAKS, California (AP)
— Scores Saturday from the \$5 million Chevron World Challenge played at the par-72, 7,023-yard Sherwood Country Club:

Third Round

Zach Johnson	73-67-68—208
Tiger Woods	69-67-73—209
K.J. Choi	66-73-72—211
Gary Woodland	73-70-70—213
Hunter Mahan	72-68-73—213
Matt Kuchar	72-67-74—213

Paul Casey	79-68-67—214
Bubba Watson	75-70-70—215
Bill Haas	78-69-69—216
Rickie Fowler	71-70-75—216
Martin Laird	77-74-66—217
Bo Van Pelt	74-72-71—217
Steve Stricker	69-76-73—218
Jim Furyk	71-74-73—218
Jason Day	74-68-77—219
Webb Simpson	73-79-68—220
Nick Watney	71-78-73—222
Keegan Bradley	76-75-74—225

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Weekend Sports

Rollers Basketball Club and the CNMI's junior tennis players shared top honors last week for their outstanding games in separate tournaments.

RBC's U16-U18B Rollers took the Turkey Fly & Shoot recreational division championship in the Guam's 2011 Take Care Thanksgiving Hoops Fest after beating Mongmong Toto Maite Falcons in the finals, 33-21, while the Rollers U14 squad ruled the Turkey Run U14B recreational category after a 41-10 finals triumph over the Tamuning Typhoons.

Back on Saipan, the 3rd Annual Tan Holdings Tennis Classic had its second and final

RBC, jr. tennis players stand out

By **ROSELYN B. MONROYO**
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week of competitions with the island's junior players topping their respective foes.

In the competitive U18 division, the lone female entry in the field, Thea Minor, stunned Rafael Jones in the finals. Other junior singles winners were Moris Villanueva (boys U15), Michael Ren (boys U12), Carol Lee (girls U12), Mikayla Lopez (girls U15), Cole Chambers (boys U10), and Tania Tan (girls U12).

In the junior doubles, Carol

Lee and Lopez won the girls U15 title, Thea Minor and Christian Miller in the U18, Vincent Tudela and Haruya Eda in the boys U10, Tan and Ami Tsukagoshi in the girls' U10, and Alex Park and Clayton Izuoka in the boys U12.

Adults doubles were also played in the final week with Boyet Minor and Roy Pangelinan (men's 40-and-above), Bobby Cruz and Lope Padilla (men's open doubles), James Libut and Ernie Henzon

(men's 3.0), Dodong Lacbayo and Richard Asuncion (men's 4.0), Sadako Arriola and Chieko Nagao (women's 3.0), Joy and Thecel Minor (women's 4.0), and Lydia Tan and Sally Lee (women's 40-and-above) making up the champions' list.

Other notable events last week were the playoff round in the NMIFA Men's FA Cup, boys U12 and girls U15 FA Cup, the Traders Insurance badminton tournament, and the resumption

of the GBL IT&E Cup.

In the men's FA Cup, Wild Bill's and Inter Godfather's advanced to the semis after beating Korean Football Association on Saipan, 3-1, and Tan Holdings FC, 2-1, respectively.

In the age group FA Cup, also making it to the semifinals were Pool A's Paire boys U12 and MP United girls U15 and Pool B's MP United boys U12 and Matansa girls U15. Paire U12 beat Shirley's FC U12, 4-0, while MP United girls

U15 won via forfeit against Shirley's FC girls U15. In Pool B playoff matches, MP United boys U12 downed Tan Holdings girls U15, 9-0, while Matansa girls U15 defeated Paire girls U15, 2-0.

In the Traders Insurance badminton tournament, the round-robin elimination was completed with four teams advancing to the playoffs. Saipan Badminton Club topped the field, followed by Golden Racquet, Berks Blazers, and Shirley's BC.

After postponing its games for one week, GBL action returned at the Garapan Basketball Court with IT&E Konflikt winning over Proa and Mobil prevailing over the Runnin' Rebels.



A Paire player, right, dribbles against a Matansa defender during the first half of their game in the NMIFA Youth FA Cup last week at the Hopwood Junior High School Field.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO



WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

Coach Joe Diaz and several Rollers Basketball Club players pose for a team photo with the group's U14B and U16-U18 coed recreation division trophies they won in last week's 2011 Take Care Thanksgiving Hoop Fest held in Guam.

Proa's Marvin Rabauliman goes up for a hooked shot against Konflikt IT&E's Bruce Berline during their game in the GBL IT&E Cup last week at the Garapan Basketball Court.

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Christian Miller, left, and Thea Minor pose for a photo after claiming the U18 doubles crown in the 3rd Annual Tan Holdings Tennis Classic.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Moris Villanueva poses for a photo after taking the boys U15 singles crown in the 3rd Annual Tan Holdings Tennis Classic.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Cole Chambers poses for a photo after winning the boys U10 singles crown in the 3rd Annual Tan Holdings Tennis Classic.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The Berks' Saul Gargallo goes for a backhand return during a game in the Traders Insurance badminton tournament at the TSL Sports Complex.



Aussies sweep Hell of Marianas



Bikers cruise along the Airport Road during last Saturday's 5th Hell of Marianas Century Cycle Race.
ROSELYN B. MONROYO

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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The Australians reigned supreme in last Saturday's 5th Hell of Marianas Century Cycle Race.

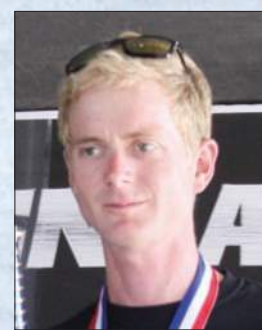
John Anderson dominated the men's field of the 100-kilometer race with a record-time of two hours, 57 seconds, and 47.09 seconds, while fellow Aussie Jodie Willet topped the women's division after clocking in at 3:16:15.72.

HELL OF THE MARIANAS THE PIC CENTURY CYCLE

Anderson was the first Hell of Marianas participant to finish the century race under the three-hour mark and his time eclipsed the 2008 record of Saipan's Eli Torgeson (3:02.22.62). The 24-year-old pro pulled away from the pack on the way up to Radar Station in As Matuis and made it to the



Willet



Anderson

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MHS clinches third straight title

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Marianas High School's boys and girls teams won their third consecutive titles after topping the 2011 Northern Marianas Athletics All Schools Cross-Country Championship last Saturday at the American Memorial Park.

The Dolphins' Charles Bautista

crossed the tape first at the 21:33 mark, but was later disqualified as he apparently took a wrong turn on the age group's 2.8-mile course. By default, first place was awarded to his teammate Beoch Ngirchongor, who turned in an official time of 22:33, while Michael Mancao (22:40) finished in second and Inbum Choo (23:33) rounded out the third spot. The U18 boys field was made up of 11 MHS runners and a pair from Saipan Southern High School.

MHS' seven-runner girls squad made up the U18 division. Chris Obaldo clocked in well ahead of the pack with a first place time of 27:48, while her teammates Clarisse Cayabyan (32:11) and Kate Villocino (32:43) filled up the rest of the podium. Both MHS crews received team awards.

Hopwood Junior High School's Kevin Jack De Leon Guerrero topped the nine-runner U14 boys field with

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Marianas High School's boys and girls cross country teams pose for a group photo after winning its third consecutive championship in the NMA All Schools cross-country competition last Saturday at the American Memorial Park.
WALTER CEPEDASUTHERLAND

DFS, Mobil enter semifinals

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DFS Galleria and Mobil booked the first two semis tickets in the 3rd Annual Shirley's Coffee Shop Invitational Basketball League after beating separate opponents last Saturday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

Mobil ousted Hyatt Regency Saipan in the first playoff game, 102-93, while DFS sent Grillin' home, following a 94-80 triumph in the second make-or-break match.

DFS built an early double-digit lead and then halted Grillin' rally in the fourth quarter to force a semis duel against Mobil on Thursday. The other semis pairing will feature the winners of tomorrow's two matches. Defending champion Pacific Islands Club/NVM will face PSS/McGraw-Hill at 6pm, while Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan will collide against Shirley's at 8pm.

DFS took a 28-12 lead after the first period, as it capitalized on the absence of Grillin's two gunners—Lerio Pagarao and Leo Galarce, who reported for the game only at the start of the second period. With the Grillin' duo not available in the

See DFS on Page 26



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
DFS Galleria's Quincy Johnson, right, goes for an acrobatic shot against Grillin's Roy Hernandez during their playoff game in the Shirley's caging last Saturday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.